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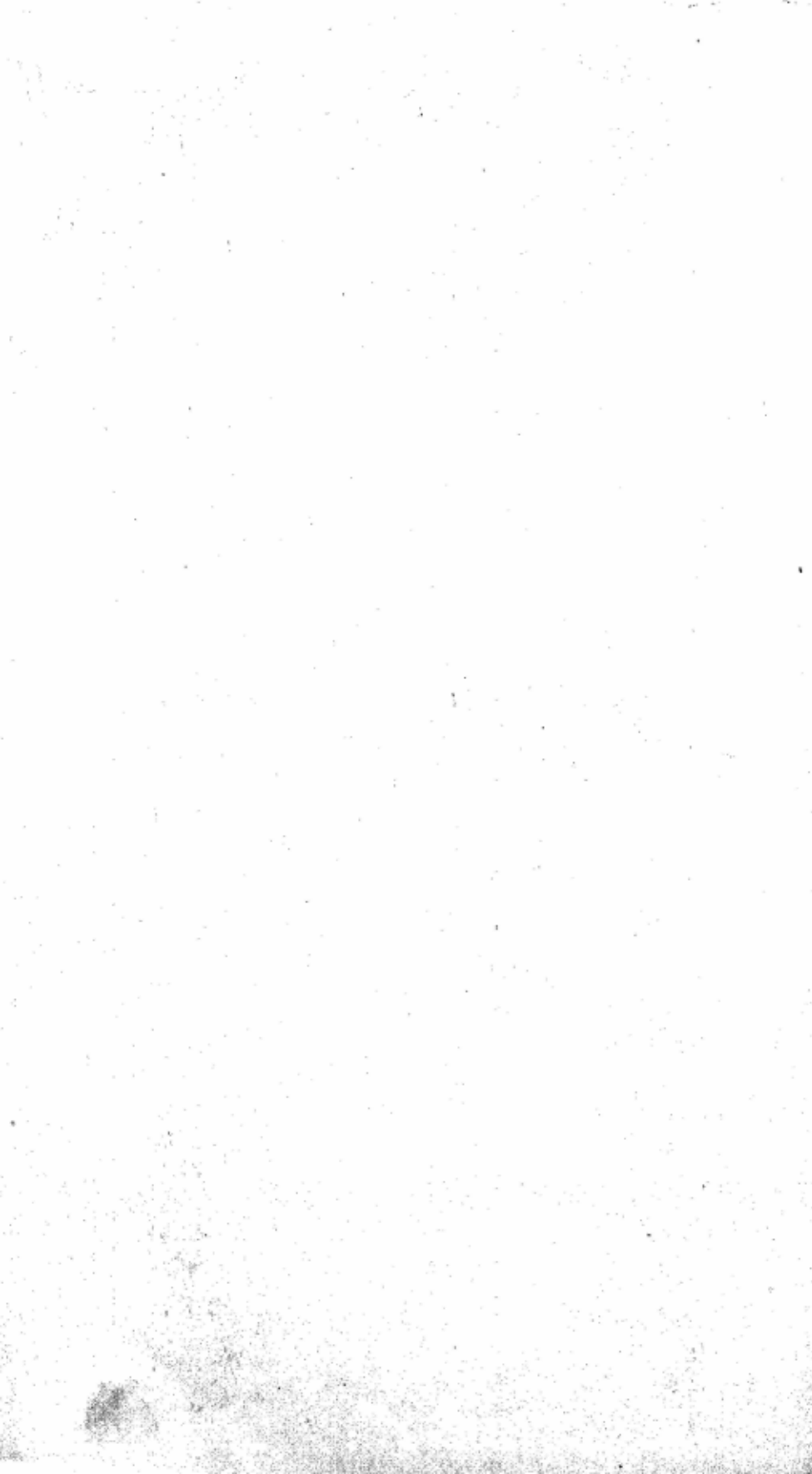
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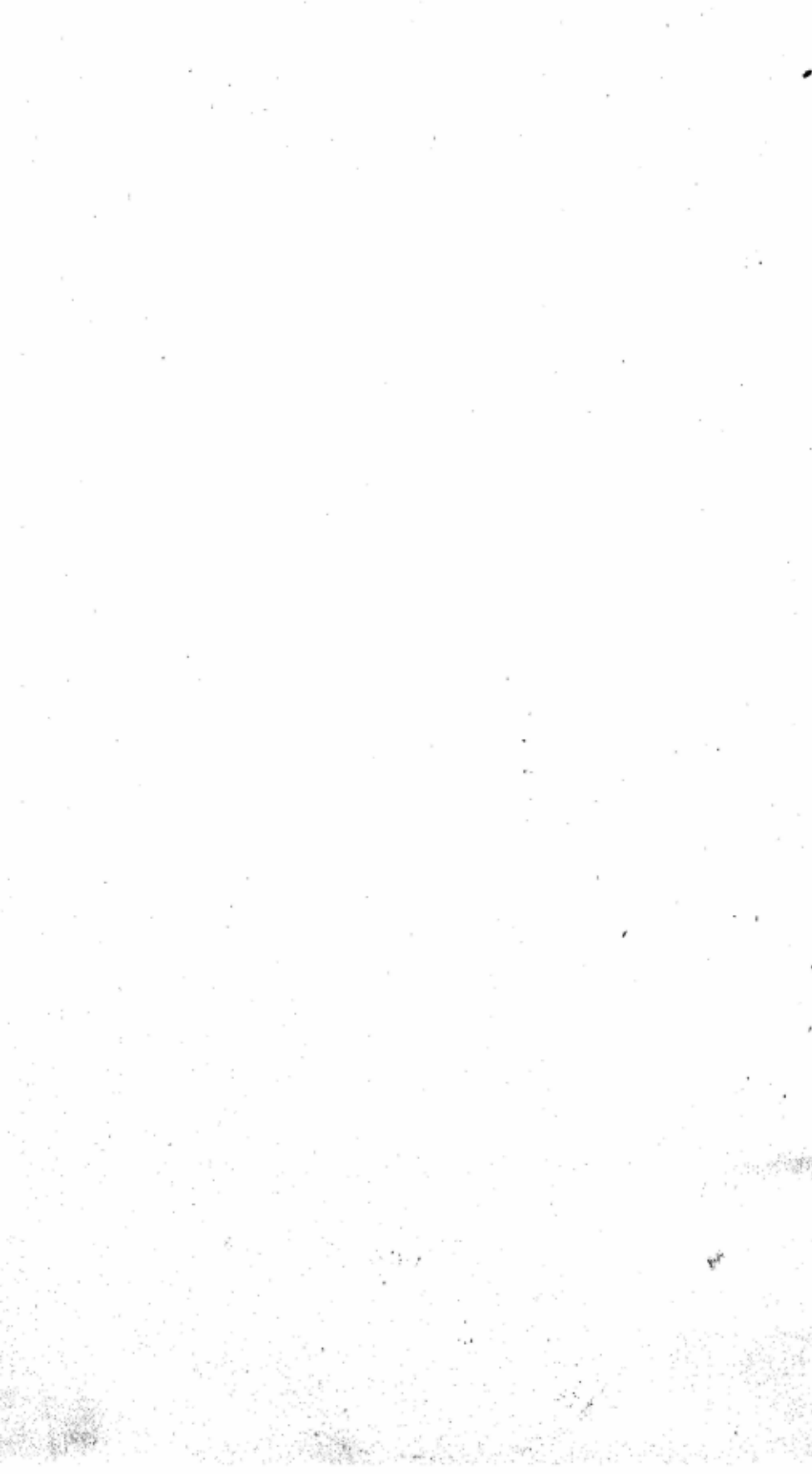


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INDIAN MYTHOLOGY.

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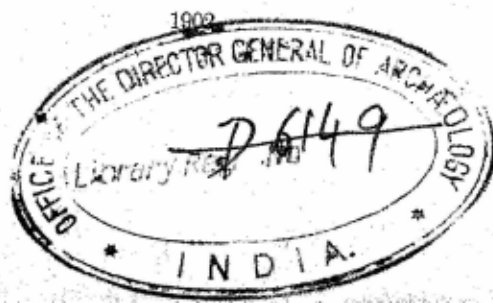
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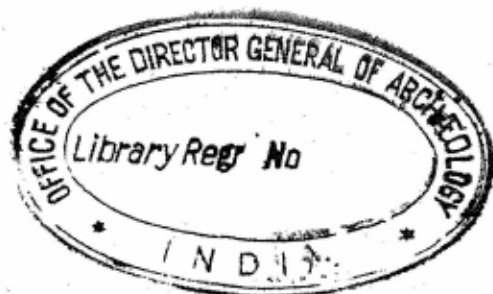
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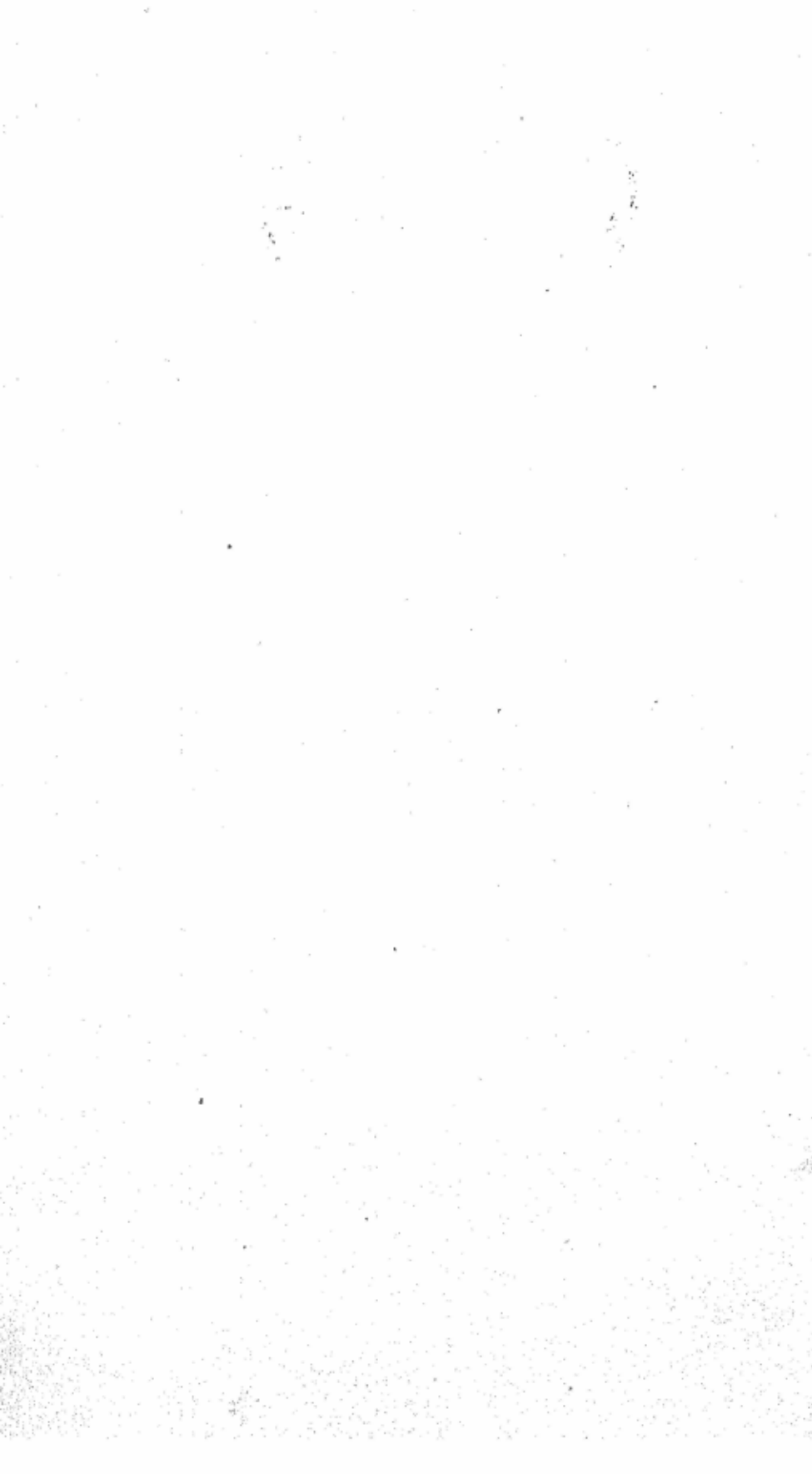
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TO ELLEN MY WIFE  
MY JOY AND MY LIFE  
FOR HER GOOD-WILL AND LOOK  
I DEDICATE THIS BOOK.







## PREFACE.

---

If we are ever to find our way through the jungle of Indian Mythology which stretches over so many different places and times, and the prolixity of which is as great as that of Indian nature itself, and if we wish to arrive at a general survey of it, particularly at an exposition of it for the public at large that does not care or trouble to go into details, nor attend to disputed and contradictory matter, — then we must first have mustered and mastered the different stadia through which it has developed itself. Not until we have had correct and reliable reviews of these stages and have seen what all the different periods have in common, not until then will it be possible to compile a general Indian Mythology. For it will not do to mix up the different periods and call such a mixture or jumble Indian mythology.

Concerning the times of the Veda's we have already some good beginnings in

A. Bergaigne, *La religion Védique*. 1—4. Paris 1878—97.

A. Hillebrandt, *Vedische Mythologie*. 1—3. Breslau 1891—1902.



## VIII

E. Hardy, *Die Vedisch-Brahmanische Periode der Religion des alten Indiens*. München 1893.

H. Oldenberg, *Die Religion des Veda*. 1894.

E. Hopkins, *Religions of India*. London 1896.

A. Macdonell, *Vedic Mythology*. Strassburg 1897.

But we still lack similar writings for the time of the Brāhmaṇa's and the Upanishad's, for the time of the Epics and the Purāṇa's, and for the time of the Classical Literature.

We have, however, not a few treatises on single subjects from the Veda's and from later times. I here mention some of these which I have noted down. Others may be found in Hardy, Hopkins, Macdonell and Oldenberg.

Baynes, *The Biography of Bhaga*. In *Actes VIII. Congr. Orient.* Leiden 1891.

Bloomfield, *Soma and the Eagle*. In *J. Am. Or. Soc.* vol. XVI.

Bohnenberger, *Varuṇa*. Tübingen. 1893.

Bradke, *Dyaus Asura*. Halle 1885.

E. Brandes, *Ushas*. Kbh. 1879.

Bühler, *Zur Mythologie des Rig-Veda*. In *Orient u. Occident*. Bd. I.

Bühler, *Parjanya*. In *Transact. Philol. Soc.* London 1859.

Ehni, *Die Vermählung d. Soma*. In *Z. d. d. m. Ges.* 33. 1879.

Ehni, *Der vedische Mythos d. Yama*. Strassburg 1890.

Ehni, *Die urspr. Gottheit*. Leipzig 1896.

L. Feer, *Vritra et Namutchi dans le MBh.* In *Revue de l'hist. des religions*. Tome 14.

# IX

- L. Feer, *La légende de Rahu*. Paris 1865.
- A. Hillebrandt, *Aditi*. Breslau 1876.
- A. Hillebrandt, *Varuna und Mitra*. Breslau 1877.
- A. Holtzmann, *Die Apsaras*. In *Z. d. d. m. Ges.* 33. 1879.
- A. Holtzmann, *Agni*. Strassburg 1878.
- A. Holtzmann, *Brahman*. In *Z. d. d. m. Ges.* 38. 1884.
- E. Hopkins, *Yama*. In *Proc. Am. Or. Soc.* 1891.
- Ch. Lanman, *The Namuci-Myths*. In the *J. R. A. Soc. of Bengal*. 58. 1889.
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- Nève, *Le mythe des Ribhavas*. Paris 1847.
- Obry, *Jéhova et Agni*. Amiens 1869—70.
- H. Oldenberg, *Savitar*. In *Z. d. d. m. G.* 51. 1897.
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- Rivett-Carnace, *The Snake Symbol in connection with the worship of Siva in India*. In the *J. R. A. Soc. of Bengal*. 48. 1879.
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- Schermann, *Philosoph. Hymnen*. Strassb. 1887.

Siecke, Liebesgeschichte des Himmels Strassb. 1892.

Streiter, De Sunahsepo. Berol. 1861.

Wallis, Cosmology of the Rigveda. London 1887.

Windischmann, Über den Somacultus. Abh. d.

Münch. Akad. IV. 1846.

Winternitz, Der Sarpabali. Mitth. Anthropol. Ges.

Wien 1888.

To supply one of the wants I have written this short Indian Mythology according to the Mbh. I have looked upon the matter with the eye of an historian, and not with that of a philosopher. Consequently I have avoided all reasoning and philosophising. On the whole it has been my endeavour to make the exposition as objective as possible by always appealing to the words of the text itself and, so to say, let it speak for itself.

My view of the Indian M., it will be seen, has principally been ethnographical-historical.

I have translated the text as literally as possible for the benefit of young scholars, only in a few places availing myself of Roy's more free rendering of it.

In order not to be influenced by the opinions and views of others, but to be quite independent, I have, while writing this book, not made use of any of the treatises mentioned above.

To get at the underlying meaning of the myths I have laid much stress upon the names, these, assumedly, indicating their meaning. And it is a matter of course that I, in the quality of an historian, have followed the system or classification of the text.

The reader may perhaps wonder at not finding anything about Gaṇeṣa and Trimūrti. The reason is

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that these mythological figures must be considered modern conceptions, Gaṇeṣa, the late Prof. Sørensen told me, only occurring twice in the MBh. and the word Trimūrti not at all.

The three gods Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Īiva, are certainly sometimes mentioned jointly, either at the head of other divinities, or in conjunction with these, but by themselves only in III,<sup>15834</sup> (see above p. 111) still without being designated as a trinity. It is not until the time of Kālidāsa that we find the word Trimūrti.

My best thanks are due to Dr. Dines Andersen for his help in carrying this book through the press.

Copenhagen, 13 December 1902.

V. Fausbell.



#### ABBREVIATIONS.

B R. = Böhtlingk & Roth, Sanskrit Wörterbuch. 1—7.  
St. Petersburg. 1852—1875.

Fire Forst. = Fire Forstudier til en Fremstilling af den  
indiske Mythologi efter Mahābhārata. Kjøbenhavn  
1897.

Grassmann = Grassmann's Wörterbuch zum Rig-Veda.  
Leipzig 1873.

Hariv. = Harivam̐ṣa (Mahābh. vol. 4).

Lassen = Chr. Lassen, Anthologia Sanskrita. Bonnæ  
1868.

M., MBh., Mahābh. = The Mahābhārata. Calcutta.  
Vol. I—IV. 1834—39.

Monier Williams = Sanskrit-English Dictionary. Lon-  
don 1872.

Pitri, Pitṛi = Pitṛ.

R., Rām. = Rāmayaṇam. 1—2. Bombay. Çāke 1810.

Rsi, Rishi = Ṛṣi.

Roy = The Mahabharata. Translated into English Prose.  
Published by Protap Chandra Roy. 1—18 Parva.  
Calcutta 1884—1894.

Wilson = H. H. Wilson's Sanskrit Dictionary, or his  
Vishnu Purāṇa.

Xatri = Kṣatṛ, Kshatriya.

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# CORRIGENDA.

- Page 1 line 18 read: towards the Sura's.  
 — 2 line 10 read: dharma's.  
 — 2 line 12 read: husband.  
 — line 4 from the bottom read: feeling.  
 — line 2 fr. the b. read: quarrelled.  
 — 27 line 9 read: Asuras.  
 — 28 line 17 instead of "then" read: there o: (for tha purpose).  
 — 36 line 5 fr. the b. read: Rāxāmsi cāitāni.  
 — 56 line 2 fr. the b. read: Vivasvat.  
 — 58 line 1—2 read: between a creation and a dissolution.  
 — 64 line 1 fr. the b. read: yac.  
 — 101 line 21 read: gold coins.  
 — 102 line 15 read: were.  
 — 118 line 2 read: Vedāir.  
 — 119 line 6 fr. the b. read: Kāiṭabhān.  
 — 121 line 6' fr. the b. read: has.  
 — 128 line 13 insert within the brackets: I,4141 and Indra-lokagamana by Bopp p. 31 v. 38.  
 — 128 line 10 fr. the b. read: beautiful.  
 — 136 line 1 read: called.  
 — 180 at the top read: Vidyādhara, line 1 read six.  
 — 183 line 5 read: -Chief.
-

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Viṣṇu's person: he has lotus eyes, four arms, on his breast he has a mark, called Çrīvatsa, this mark he received when the great sage Bhadravāja threw water on him because he disturbed him while at prayer. On his breast he wears the jewel Kāustubha.

A Lotus sprung from his navel when he lay in contemplation, and in that Brahmā with the four faces appeared.

His raiment is yellow.

His couch or bed is the serpent Çeṣa or Ananta who holds the earth at Brahmā's command, and on which Viṣṇu rests in yoga-sleep ..... 104

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Rāurava-hell.

His dwelling is Saṁyamana.

His assembly-hall, built by Viçvakarman, shines  
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His names indicate two sides of his character:  
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life in man, he is therefore called Lokān-  
takṛt, and is accompanied by Mṛtyu, death,  
and surrounded by hundreds of dreadful di-  
seases.

His messengers, Yamadūta, lead the fatigued  
through a barren district, where there is  
neither shade nor water, on to Yama.

Secondly he is the King of the Dead, the just  
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## I. THE ASURA'S.

Asura is the common name for all the antagonists of the Sura's. They consist of several classes, viz.: Dāitya's, Dānava's, Dasyu's, Kālakañja's, Kāleyya's, Khalin's, Nāga's, Nivāta-Kavaca's, Pāuloma's, Piçāca's and Rāxasa's.

Of these the most frequently mentioned are the Dāitya's, the Dānava's and the Rāxasa's. The Piçāca's, often combined with the Rāxasa's, are spoken of (VI, 3854) side by side with Māgadha's and Kālīnga's, which seems to prove them to be the original people of the country (the Aborigines). The same is perhaps the case as regards some of the others, f. i. the Nāga's, as there is even now still to be found a people of this name in the mountains of Bengal; compare below.

The Yaxa's with their king Kuvera were originally also Asura's, but seem to have made friendly advances to the Sura's and to have been welcomed by them and received into their midst; see below.

The Asura's were the offspring of 13 of Daxa prajāpati's daughters<sup>1</sup> and Kaçyapa prajāpati (Rām. III p. 470, 11: 8 daughters).

<sup>1</sup>) According to Rām. Daxa had 60 daughters, and acc. to M. I, 3819: 13, acc. to IX, 2013: 27, acc. to XII, 7387: 50.

Tasya pūrvam ajāyanta  
 daça tisraç ca Bhārata  
 prajāpater duhitaras,  
 tāsām jyeṣṭhābhavat Ditiḥ,  
 Sarvadharmaviṣeṣajñah,  
 puṇyakīrtir mahāyaçāḥ  
 Māricah Kāçyapas tāta,  
 sarvāsām abhavat patih. XII,<sup>7537</sup>.

- o: To him were first born 13 daughters, of these Diti was the eldest. The in all dharmas well versed, famous and most honourable Kaçyapa, Marīci's son, became the husband of them all.

Sarve Dāxāyaṇiputtrāḥ  
 Prājāpatyā mahābalāḥ XII,<sup>8274</sup>.

- o: All the mighty sons of Daxa's daughter and K. Prajāpati.

Diti was Daxa's eldest daughter (XII,<sup>7737</sup>), her sons were called Dāitya's, Danu's Dānava's, Kaçyapa's sons by Aditi Āditya's (Deva's or Sura's) which is not only used as the common name for the Sura's, but also as the denomination of a single class of them. The Āditya's were the younger half-brothers of the Asura's.

Bhrātṛṇāḥ nāsti sāubhrātraḥ  
 ye 'py-ekasya pituḥ sutāḥ  
 rājyahetor vivāditāḥ  
 Kaçyapasya Surāsurāḥ XIII,<sup>556</sup>.

- o: Between brothers there is not (always) good brotherly feelings,  
 they who were begotten of one and the same father  
 quarrelled for sovereignty's sake  
 (to wit) Kaçyapa's (sons), the Sura's and the Asura's.

Idan tu çrūyate Pārtha  
 yuddhe devāsura purā:  
 Asurā bhrātaro jyeṣṭhā  
 Devāḥ cāpi yavīyasah. XII,<sup>1184</sup>; cfr. Rām.  
 VII,<sup>11</sup>, <sup>16</sup>. Vṛhadār. Upanishad, brāhm. 3.

o: But this is told, o Pṛthā's son,  
 (to have been so) in the battle between the D. and  
 the Asura's of yore:  
 the Asura's (were) the elder brothers  
 and the Deva's the younger.

The Asura's have their strongholds and haunts  
 in mountain caves. In the bowels of the earth  
 do they dwell in the region of Pātāla where they have  
 several large cities: Hiraṇya-pura (V,<sup>3567</sup>. VII,<sup>1997</sup>,  
 III,<sup>12197</sup>), Prāgjyotiṣa (V,<sup>1887</sup>. 4408). Nirmocana  
 (V,<sup>1890</sup>). Further we find them in the sea where bound  
 they were delivered into Varuṇa's keeping. But also  
 in Heaven they have three fastnesses, one of iron, one  
 of silver, and one of gold, from where they attack the  
 Triloka, the three worlds (VII,<sup>9555</sup> — XIII,<sup>7482</sup>. VIII,<sup>1402</sup>.  
 1421. Cp. below and Fire Forstudier p. 40). Hence,  
 howveer, they were thrust down to earth (I,<sup>8482</sup>).

All this appears from the following passages:

Sa kadācit samudrānte  
 kasmim̐cid girigahvare  
 Valim Vairocanim Vajrī  
 dadarçôpasasarpa ca. XII,<sup>8222</sup>

o: Once, on the seashore,  
 in a mountain cave  
 saw Indra Vali Virocana's son  
 and drew nigh unto him.

Bhūmim kecit pravivīḥ  
 parvatān apare tathā  
 apare jagmur ākāṣam  
 apare 'mbhas samāviṣan. XII,6180. I,1186.

- o: Some entered the earth,  
 and others (disappeared) in the mountains,  
 still others ascended into the air,  
 others again plunged into the water.

Hiranyapuram ity-eva  
 khyātāṁ puravarāṁ mahat  
 Dāityānāṁ Dānavānāṁ ca  
 māyācatavicārinām  
 analpena prayatnena  
 nirmitāṁ Viṣvakarmanā  
 Mayena manasā sṛṣṭāṁ  
 Pātāla-talam ācṛitāṁ V,3567. VII,1997.

- o: Hiranyapura so called  
 the great remarkable city  
 that belongs to the Dāitya's and the Dānava's  
 who practise hundreds of kinds of magic  
 (this town) that was built with much labour  
 by Viṣvakarman  
 and devised by Maya  
 lies in the Pātāla district.

Tato mahīm lavanajalāṁ ca sāgaram  
 mahāsurāḥ pravivīḥ arditāḥ surāḥ I,1186.  
 III,8797. 12063. 12085.

- o: Thereupon the earth and the ocean with the  
 salt water  
 the great Asura's entered pressed by the Sura's.

Evam uktas tato Dharmo  
 niyogāt Parameṣṭhinaḥ  
 Varuṇāya dadāu sarvān  
 baddhvā Dāiteya-Dānavān.  
 Tān baddhvā Dharmapācāiḥ ca  
 svāiḥ ca pācāir Jaleçvarah  
 Varuṇah sāgare yatto  
 nityam raxati Dānavān V,4303.

- o: Thus accosted then Dharma  
 at the command of the most High  
 delivered to Varuṇa all  
 Dāitya's and Dānava's after having bound them.  
 And having bound them with Dharma's nooses  
 and with his own bonds  
 watches for ever Varuṇa, the Lord of the waters,  
 carefully the Dāitya's and the Dānava's in the  
 ocean.

Samudram axam asṛjan  
 Dānavālayam uttamaṁ. VIII,1476. III,12079.

- o: They made an axis of the ocean  
 that excellent abode of the Dāitya's.

They are described as follows: they are very  
 powerfull, in battle they uproot trees and hurl  
 the tops of mountains against their enemies.

Atha Dāityabalād ghorān  
 niṣpapāta mahābalaḥ  
 Dānavo Mahiṣo nāma  
 pragṛhya vipulaṁ giriṁ.  
 Te taṁ ghanāir ivādityaṁ  
 drṣṭvā samparivāritaṁ  
 tam udyatagiriṁ rājan

vyadravanta divāukasaḥ  
 Athābhidrutya Maḥiṣo  
 devāṃc cixepa taṃ giriṃ. III,14596.

- o: Thereupon out of the dreadful army of the Dāitya's  
 the mighty Dānava Maḥiṣa by name leapt forth  
 after having seized a great mountain,  
 seeing him like the sun surrounded by thick clouds  
 and with an uplifted mountain, o king,  
 the inhabitants of heaven fled in all directions.  
 There upon Maḥiṣa rushed forward  
 and hurled that mountain against the Gods.

Athāśya çailaçikharam  
 Keçi kruddho vyavāsrjat III,14252, XII,8290.

- o: Upon which Keçin  
 wrathful cast a rock top against him.

Te praghya mahāghorān  
 parvatān parighān drumān  
 vyaxobhayanta salilam  
 utthitam çatayojanam  
 Abhyadravanta devāṃs te  
 sahasrāṇi daçāiva hi XIII,7283, XII,8290.

- o: Taking enormous mountains  
 and (using) trees as clubs  
 they troubled the water  
 which instantly rose a hundred yojana's into the air,  
 whereupon they rushed against the gods  
 (numbering) ten thousand.

They are skilled in sorcery and magic power,  
 especially do they understand transforming them-  
 selves into all sorts of shapes and making them-

selves invisible, and they frighten people with their awful roaring.

Tato Nivātakavacā  
mām ayudhyanta māyayā etc. III,12131.

- o: Hereafter the Nivātakavaca's  
strove against me with magic arts.

Tathā tāu bhr̥çasamkruddhāu  
rāxasendrāu mahābalāu  
nirviṣeṣam ayudhyetām  
māyābhir itaretaram etc. VII,4102. XII,10117.

- o: Thus those two very wrathful  
Rāxasa-princes, the mighty ones,  
fought blindly against each other  
with sorcery.

Gacchadhvaṁ sarṣigandharvā  
yatrāsāu viṣvarūpadhṛk (o: Vṛtra) V,301.

- o: Go ye together with ṛṣi's and gandharva's  
thence where you (Vṛtra) who assumes all shapes  
(dwells).

Vartamāne tathāyuddhe  
Nivātakavacāntake  
nāpaṇyaṁ sahasā sarvān  
Dānavān māyayā vṛtān  
Adṛṇyamānās te Dāityā  
yodhayanti sma māyayā,  
adṛṇyenāstravīryeṇa  
tān apy-aham ayodhayaṁ etc. III,12161.

- o: Whilst thus the battle raged whose object  
was to destroy the Nivātakavaca's,  
on a sudden I could not see



all the Dānava's who were hidden by magic,  
 those Dāitya's who had become invisible  
 warred with sorcery,  
 with invisible armed power  
 I also fought them.

Āmānuṣam atho nādaṁ  
 sa mumoca mahāsuraḥ XII,<sup>10149</sup>.

Jahi Bhīṣmaṁ raṇe Rāma  
 garjantaṁ Asuraṁ yathā V,<sup>7031</sup>.

As Asura's are named the following beside many  
 others (see I,<sup>2525</sup> foll.):

Anuhrada	Triçiras	Madhu	Virocana
Ilvala	Damça	Maya	Vivindya
Upasunda	Dhundhu	Mahiṣa	Vīra
Uçanas	Namuci	Mura	Vṛtra
Kamalāxa	Naraka	Yātudhāna	Vṛṣaparvan
Kālanemi	Nahuṣa	Vala	Vegavat
Kirmira	Nikumbha	Vali	Çaṁvara
Keçin	Pāka	Vātāpi	Çukra
Kāitava	Puloman	Vixava	Samhlāda
Jambha	Pahrāda	Vidyunmāla	Sālva
Tāraka	Mañki	Vipracitti	Sunda
Tārakāxa	Mada	Virūpāxa	Hiranyakaçipu
Tālajaṁgha			

Some of these names may be sanskritic, some ab-  
 original.

Of the Asura's we mark separately the following  
 Classes:

## A. As Dāitya's are mentioned:

Ilvala	Vātāpi
Upasunda	Vipracitti
Tāraka	Vegavat
Triçiras	Çukra
Naraka	Sālva
Prahlāda	Sunda

## B. As Dānava's:

Kāitava	Madhu
Naraka	Maya
Prahrāda	Vivindya

But some of the Dānava's and the Dāitya's are to be found, however, as may be seen above, under the commoner name of Asura's.

Rāhu (I,1161) is the Dānava most frequently mentioned. He is also called Svarbhānu (V,3810. XIII,7292), and it is said of him that he strives to devour both sun and moon.

The myth of Rāhu is connected with the story of the Churning of the Ocean, and the strife of the Deva's and the Asura's concerning the Amṛta and the Sovereignty of the world, which I quote here in the form it has in I,1103—1188:

Jvalantam acalaṁ Merum  
 tejorāçim anuttamaṁ  
 āxipantaṁ prabhāṁ bhānoh  
 svaçrṅgāih kāñcanojjvalāih  
 Kanakābharanaṁ citraṁ  
 devagandharvasevitaṁ  
 aprameyam anādhr̥ṣyam  
 adbarmabahulāir janāih

Vyālāir ācaritaṁ ghorāir  
 divyāuṣadhividīpitaṁ  
 nākam āvṛtya tiṣṭhantaṁ  
 ucchrayeṇa mahāgiriṁ  
 Agamyāṁ manasāpy-anyāir  
 nadivṛxasamanvitaṁ  
 nānāpatagasaṅghāiḥ ca  
 nāditaṁ sumanoharāḥ —  
 Tasya ṣṛṅgam upāruhya  
 bahuratnācitaṁ ṣubhaṁ  
 anantakalpam udviddhaṁ  
 Surāḥ sarve mahāujasah  
 Te mantrayitum ārabdhās  
 tatrāsīnā divāukasah  
 Amṛtāya samāgamyā  
 taponiyamasamyutāḥ,  
 Tatra Nārāyaṇo devo  
 Brahmāṇam idam abravīt:  
 cintayatsu Sureṣv-evaṁ  
 mantrayatsu ca sarvaḥ  
 Devāir Asurasaṅghāiḥ ca  
 mathyatām kalaḥḍodadhiḥ,  
 bhaviṣyaty-Amṛtaṁ tatra  
 mathyamāne mahodadhāu,  
 Sarvāuṣadhiḥ samāvāpya  
 sarvaratnāni cāiva ha  
 mathnadhvam udadhiṁ Devā  
 vetsyadhvam Amṛtaṁ tataḥ.  
 Tato 'bhraṇḍikharākārāir  
 giriṣṛṅgāir alaṅkṛtaṁ  
 Mandaraṁ parvatavaraṁ  
 latājālasamākulaṁ

nānāvihagasaṅghuṣṭam  
 nānādamṣṭrisamākulam  
 kinnarāir Apsarobhiḥ ca  
 Devāir api ca sevitaṁ  
 Ekādaśasahasrāṇi  
 yojanānām samucchritaṁ  
 adho bhūmeh sahasreṣu  
 tāvatsv-eva pratiṣṭhitaṁ,  
 Tam uddhartum aḥaktā vāi  
 sarve Devagaṇās tadā  
 Viṣṇum āśinaṁ abhyetya  
 Brahmāṇaṁ cēdam abruvan:  
 Bhavantāv atra kurvātām  
 vuddhiṁ nāiḥcreyaśiṁ parām  
 Mandaroddharāṇe yatnah  
 kriyatāñ ca hitāya nah,  
 Tathēti cābraviḍ Viṣṇur  
 Brahmaṇā saha Bhārgava  
 acodayad ameyātmā  
 phaṇīndraṁ padmalocanaḥ.  
 Tato 'nantah samutthāya  
 Brahmaṇā paricoditah  
 Nārāyaṇena cāpy-uktas  
 tasmin karmaṇi vīryavān  
 Atha parvatarājānaṁ  
 tam Ananto mahābalaḥ  
 ujjahāra balād brahmaṇ  
 savanaṁ savanāukasaṁ.  
 Tatas tena Surāḥ sārḍham  
 samudram upatasthire,  
 tam ūcur Amṛtasyārthe  
 nirmathīṣyāmahe jalam.

Apām patir athôvāca:  
 mamāpy-am̐ṣo bhavet tatah  
 soḍhāsmi vipulaṁ mardaṁ  
 Mandarabhramaṇād iti.  
 Ūcuḥ ca Kūmarājanāṁ  
 akūpāre Surāsuraḥ:  
 adhiṣṭhānaṁ girer asya  
 bhavān bhavitum arhati.  
 Kūrmeṇa tu tathēty-uktvā  
 pr̥sthāṁ asya samarpitaṁ,  
 taṁ çāilaṁ tasya pr̥sthasthāṁ  
 yantreṇ-Ēndro nyapīdayat.  
 Manthānaṁ Mandaraṁ kṛtvā  
 tathā netraṁ ca Vāsukim  
 Devā mathitum ārabdhāḥ  
 samudraṁ nidhim ambhasāṁ,  
 Amṛtārthe purā brahmaṁs  
 tathāiv-Āsura Dānavāḥ  
 ekamantaṁ upaçliṣṭā  
 nāgarājo mahāsuraḥ,  
 Vibudhāḥ sahitāḥ sarve  
 yataḥ pucchaṁ tatah sthitāḥ  
 Ananto bhagavān devo  
 yato Nārāyaṇas tatah  
 çira utxipyā nāgasya  
 punah punar avāxipat.  
 Vāsuker atha nāgasya  
 sahasā xipyataḥ Surāih  
 sadhūmāḥ sārciṣo vātā  
 niṣpetur asakṛṇ mukhāt,  
 Te dhūmasaṅghāḥ sambhūta  
 meghasaṅghāḥ savidyutah

abhyavarṣan Suragaṇān  
 çramasantāpakarṣitān,  
 Tasmāc ca girikūṭāgrāt  
 pracyutāḥ puṣpavṛṣṭayah  
 Surāsuragaṇān sarvān  
 samantāt samavākiran,  
 Babhūvātra mahānādo  
 mahāmegharavopamah  
 udadher mathyamānasya  
 Mandareṇa Surāsurāih,  
 Tatra nānājalacarā  
 viniṣpiṣṭā mahādriṇā  
 vilayaṁ samupājagmuh  
 çataço lavaṇāmbhasi,  
 Vāruṇāni ca bhūtāni  
 vividhāni mahīdharab  
 Pātālatalavāsīni  
 vilayaṁ samupānayat,  
 Tasmiṁ ca bhrāmyamāṇe 'drāu  
 saṅghrṣyantah parasparam  
 nyapatan patagopetāḥ  
 parvatāgrān mahādrumāḥ,  
 Tesāṁ saṅgharṣajaç câgnir  
 arcirbbih prajvalen muhuh  
 vidyudbbhir iva nīlābhram  
 āvṛṇon Mandaraṁ giriṁ,  
 Dadāha kuṇjarāṁs tatra  
 sinhāṁç câiva vinirgatān  
 vigatāsūni sarvāṇi  
 sattvāni vividhāni ca,  
 Tam Agnim Amaraçreṣṭhah  
 pradahantam itas tatah

vāriṇā meghajen-Ēndrah  
 çamayām āsa sarvaçah,  
 Tato nānāvidhās tatra  
 susruvuh sāgarāmbhasi  
 mahādrumāṇām niryāsā  
 bahavaç câṣadhīrasāh,  
 Teṣām Amṛtavīryāṇām  
 rasānām payasāiva ca  
 amaratvaṁ Surā jagmuh  
 kāñcanasya ca nīravāt,  
 Tatas tasya samudrasya  
 tajjātam udakam payah  
 rasottamāir vimiçraṇ ca  
 tatah xīrād abbūd ghṛtaṁ.  
 Tato Brahmāṇam āsīnam  
 devā varadam abruvan:  
 çrāntāh sma subhṛçam Brahman  
 nōdbhavaty-Amṛtaṁ ca tat  
 Vinā Nārāyaṇam devam  
 sarve 'nye Deva-Dānavāh  
 cirārabdham idaṁ cāpi  
 sāgarasyāpi manthanam.  
 Tato Nārāyaṇam devam  
 Brahmā vacanam abravīt:  
 vidhatsvāiṣām balam Viṣṇo  
 bhavān atra parāyaṇam.  
 Balam dadāmi sarveṣām  
 karmāitad ye samāsthītāh  
 xobhyatām kalaçah sarvāir  
 Mandarah parivartyatām.  
 Nārāyaṇavacaḥ çrutvā  
 balinas te mahodadheh

tat payah sabitā bhūyaç  
 cakrire bhr̥çam ākulam.  
 Tatah çatasahasrām̐çur  
 mathyamānāt tu sāgarāt  
 prasannātmā samutpannah  
 Somah çītām̐çur ujjvalah  
 Çrīr anantaram utpannā  
 ghṛtāt pāṇḍaravāsini  
 Surā devī samutpannā  
 Turagah pāṇḍaras tathā  
 Kāustubhas tu manir divya  
 utpanno ghṛtasambhavaḥ  
 marīcivikacah çrīmān  
 Nārāyaṇa urogataḥ,  
 Çrīh Surā cāiva Somaç ca  
 Turagaç ca manojavah  
 yato devās tato yagmur  
 ādityapatham āçritāḥ,  
 Dhanvantaris tato devo  
 vapuṣmān udatiṣṭhata  
 çvetam̐ kamaṇḍalum̐ bibhrad  
 Amṛtam̐ yatra tiṣṭhati.  
 Etad atyadbhutam̐ dṛṣṭvā  
 Dānavānām̐ samutthitah  
 Amṛtārthe mahān nādo  
 mamēdam̐ iti jalpatām̐,  
 Çvetāir dantāiç caturbhis tu  
 mahākāyas tatah param̐  
 Āirāvaṇo mahānāgo  
 'bhavad Vajrabhṛtā dhṛtah,  
 Atinirmathanād eva  
 Kālakūṭas tathāparah



jagad āvṛtya sahasā  
 sadhūmo 'gnir iva jvalan,  
 Trāilokyam mohitam yasya  
 gandham āghrāya tadviṣam  
 prāgrasat lokaraxārtham  
 Brahmano vacanāc Chivah  
 Dadhāra bhagavān kaṇthe  
 mantramūrtir maheçvarah,  
 tadā prabhṛti devas tu  
 Nīlakaṇṭha iti çrutih.  
 Etat tad adbhutam drṣṭvā  
 nirāçā Dānavāh sthitāh  
 Amṛtārthe ca Laxmyarthe  
 mahāntam vāiram āsthitāh.  
 Tato Nārāyaṇo Māyām  
 mohinīm samupaçritah  
 strīrūpam adbhutam kṛtvā  
 Dānavān abhisamçritah.  
 Tatas tad Amṛtam tasyāi  
 dadus te mūḍhacetasah  
 striyāi Dānava-Dāiteyāh  
 sarve tadgatamānasāh.  
 Athāvaranamukhyāni  
 nānapraharanāni ca  
 praghyābhyadravan Devān  
 sahitā Dāitya-Dānavāh.  
 Tatas tad Amṛtam devo  
 Viṣṇur ādāya vīryavān  
 jahāra Dānavendrebhyo  
 Nareṇa sahitah prabhuh.  
 Tato Devagaṇāh sarve  
 papus tad Amṛtam tadā

Viṣṇoh sakāçāt saṁprāpya  
 sambhrame tumule satī.  
 Tatah pivatsu tat kālām  
 Deveṣv-Amṛtam īpsitaṁ  
 Rāhur vibudharūpeṇa  
 Dānavah prāpivat tadā,  
 Tasya kaṇṭham anuprāpte  
 Dānavasyāmṛte tadā  
 ākhyātaṁ candrasūryābhyām  
 Surāṇāṁ hitakāmyayā.  
 Tato bhagavatā tasya  
 çirah chinnaṁ alaṁkṛtaṁ  
 cakrāyudhena cakreṇa  
 pivato 'mṛtam ojasā,  
 Tac chāilaçrṅgapratimaṁ  
 Dānavasya çiro mahat  
 cakracchinnaṁ kham utpatya  
 nanādâtibhayaṅkaram,  
 Tat kabandhaṁ papātāsya  
 visphurad dharanītale  
 saparvatavanadvīpāṁ  
 Dāityasyākampayan mahīm.  
 Tato vāiravinirbandhah  
 kṛto Rāhumukhena vāi  
 çāçvataç candrasūryābhyām  
 grasaty-adyāpi cāiva tāu.  
 Vihāya bhagavāṁç cāpi  
 strīrūpam atulaṁ Harih  
 nānapraharaṇāir bhīmāir  
 Dānavān samākampayat.  
 Tatah pravṛttah saṁgrāmah  
 samīpe lavaṇāmbhasah

Surāpām Asurāpāñ ca  
 sarvaghōratāro mahān,  
 Prāsāṇ ca vipulās tixṇā  
 nyapatanta sahasraṇah  
 tomarāṇ ca sutixṇāgrāh  
 ṇastrāṇi vividhāni ca,  
 Tato 'surāṇ cakrabhinnā  
 vāmanto rudhiram bahu  
 asiṇaktigadārūṇā  
 nipetur dharanītale,  
 Chinnāni paṭṭiṇāṇi cāiva  
 ṇirāmsi yudhi dāruṇāṇi  
 taptakāñcanacitrāṇi  
 nipetur anīṇam tadā,  
 Rudhīrenānuliṇtāṇḡā  
 nihatāc ca mahāsuraṇ  
 adrīṇām iva kūṭāni  
 dhāturaṇtāni ṇerate,  
 Hāhākāraṇ samabhavat  
 tatra tatra sahasraṇah  
 anyonyam chindatām ṇastrāir  
 āditye lohīṇayati,  
 Parighair āyasāis tixṇāṇi  
 sannikarṇe ca muṇṇibhiṇ  
 nighnatām samare 'nyonyam  
 ṇabdo divam ivāsprṇat,  
 Chindhi bhindhi pradhāva tvam  
 pātayābhisarēti ca  
 vyacrūyanta mahāghoraṇ  
 ṇabdās tatra samantataṇ,  
 Evaṇ sutumule yuddhe  
 vartamāne mahābhaye

Nara-Nārāyaṇāu devāu  
 samājagmatur āhavaṁ.  
 Tatrā divyaṁ dhanur dr̥ṣṭvā  
 Narasya bhagavān api  
 cintayām āsa tac cakram  
 Viṣṇur Dānavasūdanam  
 Tato 'mbarāc cintitamātram āgatam  
 mahāprabham cakram amitratāpanam  
 vibhāvasos tulyam akunṭhamandalam  
 Sudarçanam saṁyati bhīmadarçanam  
 Tadāgatam jvalitahutāçanaprabham  
 bhayaṅkaram karikaravāhur acyutah  
 mumoca vāi pravalavad ugravegavān  
 mahāprabham paranagarāvadāraṇam,  
 Dahat kvacij jvalana ivāvalelihat prasahya  
 tām Asuraṇām nyakṛntata  
 praveritam viyati muhuh xitāu  
 tathā papāu raṇe rudhiram atho Piçācavat.  
 'Tathāsurā giribhir adīnacetaso  
 muhur muhuh Suragaṇamardayaṁs tadā  
 mahābalā vigalitameghavarcaśah  
 sahasraço gaganam abhiprapadya ha  
 Athāambarād bhayajananāḥ prapedire  
 sapādapā bahuvidhamegharūpiṇah  
 mahādrayah parigalitāgrasānavah  
 parasparam drutam abhihatya sasvanāḥ  
 Tato mahī pravicalitā sakānanā  
 mahādripātābhilātā samantataḥ  
 parasparam bhr̥çam abhigarjatām  
 mulūraṇājire bhr̥çam abhisampravartite.  
 Naras tato varakanakāgrabhūṣaṇāir  
 maheṣubhir gaganapatham samāvṛṇot

vidārayan giriçikharāpi patribhir  
 mahābbhaye 'suraganavigrahe tadā.  
 Tato mahīm lavaṇajalaṇ ca sāgaram  
 mahāsurāḥ praviviçur arditāḥ surāih  
 viyadgataṁ jvalitahutāçanaprabhaṁ  
 Sudarçanaṁ parikupitaṁ niçamya te.  
 Tataḥ Surāir vijayam avāpya Mandarah  
 svam eva deçaṁ gamitāḥ supūjitāḥ  
 vināḍya khaṁ divam api cāiva sarvaçaḥ  
 tato gatāḥ saliladharā yathāgataṁ.  
 Tato 'mrtaṁ sunihitam eva cakrire  
 Surāḥ parāṁ mudam abhigamya puṣkalām  
 dadāu ca taṁ nidhim Āmrtaçya raxitūṁ  
 kirīṭine Balabhid athāmarāih saha.

Amṛtamanthanaṁ samāptaṁ.

- o: Sauti said, „There is a mountain named Meru of blazing appearance, and looking like a huge heap of effulgence. The rays of the sun falling on its peaks of golden lustre are dispersed by them. Abounding with gold and of variegated tints, that mountain is the haunt of the gods and the Gandharvas. It is immeasurable, and unapproachable by men of manifold sins. Dreadful beasts of prey inhabit its breast, and it is illuminated with divine herbs of healing virtue. It standeth kissing the heavens by its height and is the first of mountains. Ordinary people cannot so much as think of ascending it. It is graced with trees and streams and resoundeth with the charming melody of winged choirs. Standing high for infinite ages, upon it once all the mighty celestials sat them down and held a conclave. They came in quest of amrita, they who had practiced penances and observed the rules according to the ordinance. Seeing

the celestial assembly in anxious consultation, Narayana said to Brahma, 'Do thou churn the Ocean with the Suras (gods) and the Asuras. By doing so, amrita shall be obtained together with all drugs and all gems. O ye gods, churn ye the Ocean, and ye shall discover amrita.'"

Santi said, „There is a mountain of name Mandara adorned with peaks like those of the clouds. It is the best of mountains, and is covered all over with intertwinning herbs. There no end of birds pour forth their melody, and there beasts of prey roam about. The gods, the Apsaras, and the Kinnaras visit the place. Upwards it riseth eleven thousand yojanas, and descendeth downwards as much. The gods failed to tear it up and they came to Vishnu and Brahma who were sitting, and said, 'devise ye some efficient scheme. Consider, ye gods, how Mandara may be upraised for our good.'"

Santi continued, „And Vishnu, with Brahma, assented to it, O son of Bhrigu! And the lotus-eyed one laid the hard task on the mighty Ananta, the prince of Snakes. And the mighty Ananta, directed thereto both by Brahma and Narayana, O Brahmana, upraised that mountain with the woods thereon and with the dwellers of those woods. And the gods came to the shore of the Ocean with Ananta, and addressed the Ocean saying. 'O Ocean, we have come to churn thy waters for obtaining nectar'. And the Ocean replied, 'be it so, as I am to have a share of the nectar. I am able to bear the agitation of my waters by the mountain.' And the gods went to the king of the tortoises and said to him, 'O Tortoise-

king, thou shalt have to hold the mountain on thy back.' The tortoise-king agreed, and Indra placed the mountain on the former's back by means of instruments.

„And the gods and the Asuras made Mandara their churning staff and Vasuki the cord, and set about churning the main for amrita. The Asuras held Vasuki by the hood and the gods by the tail. And Ananta who was for Narayana, at intervals raised the Snake's hood and suddenly lowered it. And in consequence of the friction he received at the hands of the gods and the Asuras, black vapours with flames issued out of his mouth which becoming clouds charged with lightning poured down showers to refresh the tired gods. And blossoms beginning to rain on all sides of the gods from the trees on the whirling Mandara, also refreshed them.

„And, O Brahmana, out of the deep then came a tremendous roar, like unto the roar of the clouds at the universal dissolution. Various aquatic animals were crushed by the great mountain, and gave up their being in the salt-waters. And many dwellers of the lower regions and inhabitants of the world of Varuna were killed. From the revolving Mandara, large trees were torn up by the roots, and flying into the air like birds, they fell into the water. And the mutual friction of the trees produced a fire which surrounded the mountain. And the mountain looked like a mass of dark clouds charged with lightning. O Brahmana, the fire increased, and burnt the lions, elephants and other creatures that were on the mountain. And carcasses of no end of ani-

mals floated down the waters. Then Indra extinguished that fire by descending showers.

„O Brahmana, after the churning had gone on for sometime, the gums of various trees and herbs mixed with the waters of the Ocean. And the celestials attained immortality by drinking of the waters mixed with those gums vested with the properties of amrita, and with the liquid extract of gold. By degrees, the milky water of the agitated deep produced clarified butter by virtue of the gums and juices. But nectar did not rise even then. And the gods appeared before boon-granting Brahmā seated on his seat and said, 'Sir, we are spent, we have not strength left to churn further. Nectar hath not yet arisen. So that now we have no resource save Narayana.'

„Hearing them, Brahmā said to Narayana, 'Lord, vouchsafe to grant the gods strength to churn afresh the deep.'

„And Narayana agreeing to grant their various prayers, said, 'O wise ones, I grant ye sufficient strength. Go, insert the mountain and churn the waters.'

„Re-equipped with strength, the gods began the churning again. After a while, the mild Moon of a thousand rays emerged from the ocean. Thereafter, Lakshmi dressed in white, and wine, the white steed, and then the celestial gem Kaustuva which graces the breast of Narayana. Lakshmi, wine, and the steed fleet as the mind, all came before the gods of high. Then arose the divine Dhanwantari himself with the white vessel of nectar in his hand. And



seeing him, the Asuras set up a loud cry, saying. 'Ye have taken all, he must be ours.'

„And at length rose the great elephant, Airavata, of huge body and with two pairs of white tusks. And him took the holder of the thunder-bolt. But the churning still went on, so that poison at last appeared, and began to overspread the earth, blazing like a flame mixed with fumes. And at the scent of the fearful Kalakuta, the three worlds were stupefied. And then Mahadeva of the Mantra form, solicited by Brahma, to save the creation swallowed the poison and held it in his throat. And it is said that the god from that time is called Nilakantha (blue-throated). Seeing all these wondrous things, the Asuras were filled with despair, and prepared to enter into hostilities with the gods for the possession of Lakshmi and nectar. Thereupon Narayana called his bewitching Maya to his aid, and assuming a ravishing female form, coquetted with the Asuras. And the Daityas, ravished with her charms, lost their reason and unanimously placed the nectar in the hands of that fair woman.“

Sauti said: „Then the Daityas and the Danavas with first class armours and various weapons pursued the gods. In the meantime the valiant Lord Vishnu accompanied by Nara took away the nectar in his hands from those mighty Danavas.

„And then all the tribes of the gods during that time of great fright drank the nectar receiving it from Vishnu. And while the gods were drinking that nectar after which they had so much hankered, a Danava named Rahu was drinking it in the guise of

a god. And when the nectar had only reached Rahu's throat, the Sun and the Moon (discovered him and) communicated the fact to the gods. And Narayana instantly cut off with his discus the well-adorned head of the Danava who was drinking the nectar without permission. And the huge head of the Danava cut off by the discus and resembling a mountain-peak then rose to the sky and began to utter dreadful cries. And the Danava's headless trunk falling upon the ground and rolling thereon made the Earth tremble with her mountains, forests, and islands. And from that time hath arisen a long-standing quarrel between Rahu's head and the Sun and the Moon. And to this day it swalloweth the Sun and the Moon, (causing the eclipses),

„And Narayana quitting his ravishing female form, and hurling many terrible weapons at them, made the Danavas tremble. And thus on the shores of the sea of salt-water, commenced the dreadful battle of the gods and the Asuras. And sharp-pointed javelins and lances and various weapons by thousands began to be discharged on all sides. And mangled with the discus and wounded with swords, saktis, and maces, the Asuras in large numbers vomited blood and lay prostrate on the earth. Cut off from the trunks with sharp double edged swords, heads adorned with bright gold fell continually on the field of battle. Their bodies drenched in gore, the great Asuras lay dead everywhere. It seemed as if red-dyed mountain peaks lay scattered all around. And when the sun rose in his splendour, thousands of warriors striking one another with their weapons,

the sounds 'Alas!' and 'O!' were heard everywhere. The warriors fighting at a distance from one another brought one another down by sharp iron missiles, and those fighting at close quarters slew one another by blows of the fist. And the air was filled with shrieks of distress. Everywhere were heard the alarming sounds, 'cut off,' 'pierce,' 'after,' 'hurl down,' 'advance.'

„And when the battle was raging fiercely, Nara and Narayana entered the field. And Narayana seeing the heavenly bow in the hand of Nara, called to his mind his own weapon—the Danava-destroying discus. And lo! the discus, Sudarshana, destroyer of enemies, like to Agni in effulgence, and dreadful in battle, came from the sky as soon as thought of. And when it came, Achyuta of fierce energy, of arms like the trunk of an elephant, hurled and hurled with great force the weapon, effulgent as flaming fire, dreadful, and of extraordinary lustre, and capable of destroying hostile towns. And that discus blazing like the fire that burneth all things at the end of time, hurled with force from the hands of Narayana, falling constantly everywhere destroyed the Daityas and the Danavas by the thousands. Sometimes it flamed like fire and consumed them all, sometimes it struck them down as it coursed through the sky; and sometimes, falling on earth, like a goblin it drank their life blood.

„And on their side, the Danavas, white as the clouds from which the rain hath been extracted, possessing great strength and bold hearts, ascended the sky and hurling down thousands of mountains con-

tinually harassed the gods. And those dreadful mountains, like masses of clouds, with their trees and flat tops, falling from the sky, collided with one another and produced a tremendous roar. And when thousands of warriors shouted without intermission on the field of battle and the mountains with the woods thereon began to fall around, the Earth with her forests trembled. Then the divine Nara coming to that dreadful conflict of the Assuras and the Ganas (the followers of Rudra), reducing to dust those rocks by means of his goldheaded arrows covered the heavens with the dust. And discomfited by the gods, and seeing the furious discus scouring the fields of heaven like a blazing flame, the mighty Danavas entered the bowels of the Earth, while others plunged into the sea of salt waters.

„And having gained the victory, the gods offering due respect to Mandara placed him on his own base. And the nectar-bearing gods making the heavens resound with their shouts, went to their own abodes, And the gods returning to the heavens rejoiced greatly, and the vessel of nectar Indra and the other gods made over to Nara for careful keep.“ (Roy's Transl.)

From this we see that the Sun and the Moon, from kindness, revealed to the gods that Rāhu was drinking the Amṛta, and that Viṣṇu cut off Rāhu's head which flew up to heaven, whilst his body fell on the earth causing it to tremble.

According to XIII, 7292 foll. the penitential brāhmaṇa Atri saves the gods from Rāhu and the Dānava's.

The Rāhu myth is often referred to in the Mahābhārata, thus in V, 3810:

Atra madhye samudrasya  
 kabandhah pratidṛçyate  
 Svarbhāṇoh sūryakalpasya  
 Soma-Sūryāu jighāmsatah.

o: Here in the midst of the ocean the body of Svarbhānu is to be seen in the shape of the sun  
 desiring to destroy the moon and the sun.

See further VI, 4619. VII, 1668, 3767.

9 C. Dasyu seems to have been used about an aboriginal people, but has afterwards been degraded to the common name for a robber. Thus we read in V, 338:

Tato rājñām samabhaṇvad yuddham etat  
 tatra jātām varmaçastrām dhanuḥ ca  
 Indrenāitat Dasyu-badhāya karma  
 utpāditām varmaçastrām dhanuḥ ca.

o: Then the war arose between the kings,  
 then armour, arms and bow were invented,  
 by Indra for the destruction of the Dasyu's the work  
 was done: armour, arms and bow.

But in I, 4308. 3503. XII, 2952 it is used only as the name of a robber.

D. The Nāga's or Serpents are also called Sarpa's, so we read in I, 797:

Sa tatra Nāgāms tām astuvad ebhiḥ çlokāih:  
 Ye Āirāvatarājānah  
 Sarpāh samitiçobhanāh — cfr. II, 360-66 and in  
 many other places.

o: He there praised the Nāgas in these çloka's:  
 The Sarpas who have Āirāvata for their king  
 (and) shine in battle —

Still it must be remarked that in VI,<sup>246</sup> is written: Sarpā Nāgāḥ ca, which seems to imply that they have been understood to be two different species. They are designated beside by several other synonymous expressions as pannaga (I,<sup>2144</sup>, <sup>2126</sup>. III,<sup>12400</sup>), uraga (I,<sup>2135</sup>), bhujaṅga (III,<sup>12386</sup>. XII,<sup>13835</sup>), ajagara (III,<sup>12390</sup>).

They dwell in the bowels of the earth (I,<sup>796</sup>. <sup>5018</sup>. V,<sup>3530</sup>) in Nāgaloka, which is endless, aparyanta, crowded with hundreds of different kinds of palaces, houses, towers and pinnacles, anekavidhaprāsādaharmayavalabhīneryūha, and strewn with wonderful large and small pleasure-grounds, uccāvacakrīḍācaryasthānāvākīrṇa. The Serpent-world is likewise called Pātāla (VIII,<sup>4633</sup>, cfr. V,<sup>3548</sup>) and Niraya (III,<sup>12419</sup>). Their principal town is called Bhogavatī (V,<sup>3617</sup>), where Vāsuki reigns. They also live in caves, in inaccessible mountainous regions (III,<sup>12386</sup>) and are even said to be found in the valleys, in Kuruxetra, on the banks of the river Īxumatī (I,<sup>803</sup>), in the Nāimiṣa forest on the shores of Gomatī (XII,<sup>13800</sup>), in numbers on the northern banks of the Gaṅgā (I,<sup>799</sup>), and in the Niṣadha (-mountain districts) (VI,<sup>246</sup>). The most important of them is Qeṣa who lies underneath the earth and supports it (cf. Viṣṇu).

Adhastād dharaṇīm yo 'sāu

sadā dhārayate nrpa

Qeṣaḥ ca pannagaḥreṣṭhah VII,<sup>3456</sup>. V,<sup>3618</sup>.

The Nāga's are thus described: They are possessed of great strength, mahāvīrya, have a big body, mahākāya, they are frightful, ghora, very quick, tarasvin, very violent, mahāvega, and they descend from Surabhī (XII,<sup>13866</sup>. I,<sup>2162</sup>). They are provided with

tusks full of poison, *daṁstra*, *viṣolvana* (I,5018), *kālānaviṣa* (I,2169). They are handsome, take many shapes, and wear showy earrings, *surūpa*, *bahurūpa*, *kalmāṣakuṇḍala* (I,797, XII,13825). They consist of several races. Of *Vāsuki*'s race some are blue, some red, and some white, dreadful, large-limbed, and possessed of strong poison (I,2145 foll.). Some have 3, others 7, and others again 10 heads etc. (I,2162. V,3622).

Beside the many names of single *Nāga*'s that are repeated in I,2142 foll. II,360. V,3625, the following are to be found separately named in the different books:

Aryaka	Taxaka	Vāsuki
Arvuda	Dhanañjaya	Çakravāpin
Açvasena	Dhṛtarāṣṭra	Çeṣa
Kārkotaka	Nahuṣa	Sumukha
Kālapṛṣṭha	Padmanābha	Srutasena
Cikura	Mani	Svastika
Jaya	Mahājaya	

E. Amongst the *Asura*'s, the *Rāxasa*'s are described as being perfect ogres. They are cannibals, cruel trolls who scent human flesh. They are large and strong, broad-shouldered, hideous in appearance, with flaming red eyes, red beard and hair, a mouth stretching from ear to ear. They have sharp prominent teeth, and a long tongue. Their ears are pointed as spears. They are night-wanderers, the children of darkness, unconquerable at midnight and in the gloaming and shun the light. They practise sorcery, *māyā*, and transform themselves into many different shapes. They haunt chiefly the woods, live in mountain fastnesses and

in desolate regions. They laugh and roar frightfully. They make obstacles to prevent offerings and penances, and haunt holy places (tīrtha). To show this I cite the following passages:

Tatah sa tṛṇam ādāya  
'prahrṣṭah punar abravīt:  
anenāhaṁ haniṣyāmi  
Rāxasaṁ puruṣādakam. I, 6202.

- o: Thereupon he having taken a blade of grass  
answered joyfully:  
with this will I slay  
the cannibal Rāxasa.

Te catuṣpathanixipte  
Jarā nāmātha Rāxasī  
jagrāha manujavyāghra  
māṁsaṇṇitabhojanā. II, 715.

- o: Those who were cast on the cross-roads  
seized then a Rāxasa-woman  
by name Jarā  
who lived on flesh and blood.

Samīpe nagarasyāśya  
Vako vasāti Rāxasasah  
īḥo janapadasyāśya  
purasya ca mahābalaḥ  
puṣṭo mānuṣamāṁsena  
durbuddhiḥ puruṣādakah. I, 6207.

- o: Near that town  
lives the Rāxasa Vaka  
reigning over that country  
and over that city, he the powerful



who lives on human flesh,  
the foolish cannibal.

Tatra teṣu çayāneṣu  
Hidimbo nāma Rāxasah  
avidūre vanāt tasmāc  
chālavyāṣaṁ samāçritah  
krūro mānuṣamāṁsādo  
mahāvīryaparākramah  
pravṛḍjaladharaçyāmah  
piṅgāxe dāruṇākṛtiḥ  
daṁṣṭrākārālavadanah  
piçitepsuh xudhārditah  
lambaspḥik lambajāṭharo  
raktaçmaçruçiroruhah  
mahāvṛxagalaskandhah  
çaṅkukaṛṇo vibhīṣanah  
virūparūpah — —  
hr̥ṣṭo mānuṣamāṁsasya  
mahākāyo mahābalaḥ  
āghrāya mānuṣaṁ gandhaṁ  
bhaginīm idam abravīt etc. I 5922, 6273, 3607.  
VII, 1975, 8004, 8150, 6862. III, 385, 16137. XII, 80. II, 86.

- o: While they lay there  
a Rāxasa by name Hidimba,  
who had taken refuge under a Qāla-tree  
not far from that wood,  
a dreadful cannibal  
of great strength and courage  
dark as a thunder cloud  
with red eyes, of a frightful appearance,  
having a mouth with prominent teeth,  
hungering after human flesh,

with red beard and hair,  
 Neck and shoulders as thick as the trunk of a tree  
 with spear-shaped ears, terrifying,  
 deformed --  
 Rejoicing over human flesh,  
 large-limbed, powerful,  
 after having scented men  
 he said this to his sister etc.

Purā samrajyate prācī  
 purā sandhyā pravartate  
 rāudre muhūrte raxāṁsi  
 prabalāni bhavanty-uta,  
 tvarasva Bhīma mā krīḍa  
 jahi Raxo vibhīṣaṇam  
 purā vikurute māyām  
 bhujaṇyoh saram arpayā I,<sup>6028</sup>.

- o: The east is reddening, the morning twilight is about to set in. Rakshasa's become stronger by break of day. Therefore hasten, O Bhīma! Play not (with thy victim), but slay the terrible Rakshasa soon. During the two twilights Rakshasa's always put forth their powers of deception. Use all the strength of thy arms. (Roy.)

Rātrāu niçīthe syābhīle  
 gate 'rdhasamaye nṛpa  
 pracāre puruṣādānām  
 Raxasām ghorakarmaṇām  
 tad vanam tāpasā nityam  
 gopāḥ ca vanacāriṇaḥ  
 dūrāt pariharanti sma  
 puruṣādabhayāt kila etc. III,<sup>388</sup>. VII,<sup>7928</sup>.

- o: O king, just after the dreadful hour of midnight when all nature is asleep, when man-eating Rāxasas of terrible deeds begin to wander, the ascetics and the cow-herds and other rangers of the forest used to shun the woods of Kāmyaka and fly to a distance for fear of cannibals. (Roy.)

Athāpçyat sa udaye  
 bhāskaram bhākaradyutih  
 somañ cāiva mahābhāgaṃ  
 viçamānaṃ divākaram,  
 amāvāsyāṃ pravṛttāyāṃ  
 muhūrte rāudra eva tu  
 devāsuraṃ ca saṃgrāmaṃ  
 so 'paçyad udaye girāu,  
 lohitaṅgaṃ ca ghanāir yuktāṃ  
 pūrvāṃ sandhyāṃ Çatakratuḥ  
 apaçyal lohitaḍaṃ ca  
 bhagavān Varuṇālayaṃ III,<sup>14267</sup>.

- o: And that god adorned with sun-like effulgence, then perceived the Sun rising on the Udaya hill, and the great Soma (Moon) gliding into the Sun. It being the time of the new Moon, he of a hundred sacrifices, at that Rāudra moment, observed the gods and Asuras fighting on the Sunrise-hill. And he saw that the morning twilight was tinged with red clouds. And he also saw that the abode of Varuṇa had become blooded. (Roy.)

Rātrāu hi Rāxasā bhūyo  
 bhavanty-amitavikramāḥ  
 balavantah sudurdharsāḥ  
 çūrā vikrāntayodhinah VII,<sup>7982</sup>, 7998.

- o: For at night the Rāxasa's become  
immensely strong  
mighty unconquerable  
heroes, brave warriors.

Tam dr̥ṣṭvā mātur udarāc  
cyutam ādityavarcasaṁ  
tad Raxo bhasmasād bhūtaṁ  
papāta parimucya tām I,899.

- o: And the Rāxasa perceiving the infant drop from  
the mother's womb, shining like the sun, quitted  
his grasp of the woman and fell down and was  
instantly converted into ashes. (Roy.)

Jarā nāmāsmi bhadraṁ te  
Rāxasī kāmārūpinī II,729. III,367.

- o: I am Jarā by name, Hail!  
a Rāxasa-women who can assume all shapes.

Giridurgeṣu ca sadā  
deṣeṣu viṣameṣu ca  
vasanti Rāxasā rāudrās III,1909.

- o: In mountain fastnesses  
and in rough regions  
live the cruel Rāxasa's.

Katham utsrjya Vāidehīm  
vane Rāxasasevite  
iti taṁ bhrātaraṁ dr̥ṣṭvā  
prāpto 'sīti vyagarhayat III,16058.

- o: How couldst thou forsake Vāidehī  
in a forest infested by Rāxasa's  
and come here, thus did he blame his brother,  
when he saw him.

Ghoram rūpam atho kṛtvā  
 Bhīmasenam abhāṣata — —  
 Evam uktvā tato Bhīmam  
 antardhānam gatas tadā. —  
 Bhīmas tu samare rājan  
 adṛṣye rāxase tadā  
 ākāṣam pūrayām āsa  
 ṣarāḥ sannatapūrvabhih  
 Sa badhyamāno Bhīmena  
 nimeṣād ratham āsthitah  
 jagāma dharāṇi cāiva  
 xudrah kham sahasāgamat  
 uccāvacāni rūpāṇi  
 cakāra subahūni ca  
 aṇur vṛhat punah sthūlo  
 nādam muñcann ivāmbudah etc. VII,4075.

Vapām vilumpanti hasanti Rāxasāḥ  
 prakarṣamānāḥ kuṇapāṇy-anekaṣaḥ VII,1976. III,393.

Svadhām pūjāṇ ca Raxobhir  
 Janasthāne prapāṇitām  
 prādān nihatya Raxāmsi  
 pitṛdevabhya iṣvarah VII,2241.  
 Raxogaṇavikīrṇāni  
 tīrthāny-etāni Bhārata III,8260.  
 o: Those holy places, o Bhārata,  
 are haunted by flocks of Rāxasa's.

Rāxāmsi cāitani caranti putra  
 rūpeṇa tenādbhutadarṣanena  
 atulyavīryāny-abhirūpavanti  
 vighnam sadā tapasaḥ cintayanti  
 Surūparūpāni ca tāni tāta

pralobhayante vividhāir upāyāih  
sukhāc ca lokāc ca nipātayanti

tāny-ugrarūpāṇi munin vaneṣu etc. III,10070.

- o: Those are, o son! Rākshas. They walk about in that wonderfully beautiful form. Their strength is unrivalled and their beauty great. And they always meditate obstruction to the practice of penances. And, O my boy, they assume lovely forms, and try to allure by diverse means. And those fierce beings hurled the saints, the dwellers of the woods, from blessed regions (won by their pious deeds). (Roy.)

As a kind of Rāxasa's are named (II,86) Kinnara's.

Scattered about in different places of the Mahābhārata we find the following names of Rāxasa's:

Alamvuṣa	Jarū	Vaka
Alāyudha	Dūṣana	Vāli
Kirmira	Maya	Vibhīṣana
Kumbhakarna	Mahiṣa	Çamvara
Khara	Mahendra	Çūrpanakha
Ghaṭotkaca	Mārīca	Hidimba
Jaṭāsura	Rāvaṇa	

Of these names some are perhaps aboriginal words, others perhaps are sanskritic, or sanskriticised.

F. Piçāca's are often mentioned in combination with the Rāxasa's (VII,1975, 2104. XII,10222) and are even sometimes identified with these. They are like the Rāxasa's hideous, repellent and bloodthirsty.

I quote the following proofs:

Pivanti cāṇanti ca yatra durḍṛcāḥ

Piçācasaṅghāḥ ca nadanti bhāiravāḥ VII, 1979.

I, 8193, 1181.

- o: Where disgusting Piçāca's drink and eat  
(out of the river of blood and corpses)  
and roar frightfully.

Aṣṭacakrasamāyuktam

āsthāya pravaraṇi ratham

turaṅgavadanāir yuktam

Piçācāir ghoradarṇanāih VII, 7499. III, 16136.

- o: After having mounted the excellent  
carriage which was furnished with 8 wheels  
and harnessed (to it) Piçāca's of frightful  
appearance having horses' faces.

Tatrādr̥ṣyanta Raxāṁsi

Piçācāḥ ca prthagbhidhāḥ

khādanto naramāṁsāni

pivantah ṇṇitāni ca

Karālāḥ piṅgalāḥ cāiva

ṇailadantā rajasvalāḥ etc. X, 452.

- o: There were seen several kinds  
of Rāxasa's and Piçāca's  
eating human flesh  
and drinking blood,  
They had prominent teeth and were red,  
they had teeth as hard as stone and were dirty.

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We have seen from what I have stated above, that  
the Asura's and the Sura's were half-brothers, and

that the Asura's were the elder, wherefore Asura in the Rigveda means God.

In the Mahābhārata there is often mentioned a Strife between the half-brothers:

Bhrātṛṇām nāsti sāubhrātram

ye 'py-ekasya pituh sutāh

rājyahetor vivaditāh

Kaṣyapasya Surāsuraḥ XIII,556. Cfr. above.

This quarrel appears first to have arisen after they in harmony had churned the sea (I,1112, VIII,2983; cfr. Rāmāyaṇa, see „Fire Forstudier“ p. 45). For then came forth, amongst other things the Amṛta, the Drink of immortality, ambrosia, and that they both wanted. So the warfare began between the Asura's and the Sura's that became a struggle for the mastery of the three worlds (Triloka), the imperial power, a battle that lasted thousands of years and transformed the earth to an ocean of blood. Cfr. below under Sura's.

Teṣām api Āri-nimittam

mahān āsit samucchrayah,

yuddham varṣasahasrāṇi

dvātriṃśad abhavat kila,

Ekārṇavām mahīm kṛtvā

rudhireṇa pariplutam

jaghnur Dāityāṁs tathā Devās

Tridivam cābhilebhire XII,1185.

o: Between them became for Āri's sake

great enmity

a war began which lasted

32,000 years.

After having converted the earth



to a sea of blood  
the Deva's killed the Dāitya's  
and won Heaven.

Nityānuṣaktavāirā hi  
bhrātaro Deva-Dānavāḥ V,<sup>3584</sup>.  
Surāṇām Asurāṇāṃ ca  
samajāyata vāi mithah  
āiṣvaryaṃ prati saṃgharṣas  
Trāilokyē sacarācare I,<sup>3187</sup>. IX,<sup>1352</sup>. XIII,<sup>556</sup>.

- o: Of Sura's and Asura's  
there was certainly an encounter  
between them  
to gain the sway of the three worlds  
with all its moveable and immoveable things.

It is said that assuredly were the Asura's originally just, good and charitable, knew the Dharma and sacrificed, and were possessed of many other virtues (XII,<sup>8368</sup> foll. 8361 foll.). And therefore Qrī, the goddess of prosperity, dwelt with them during yuga's from the very beginning of the world.

Sāham evaṃ guṇesv-eva  
Dānaveṣṣv-avasāṃ purā  
prajāśargam upādāya  
nāikāṃ yugaviparyayaṃ. XII,<sup>8381</sup>.

But afterwards as they multiplied in numbers (XII,<sup>2396</sup>), they became proud, vain, quarrelsome and shameless, they infringed Dhamma, they neglected to sacrifice, they did not visit the holy places, tīrthās, to cleanse themselves from sin (III,<sup>8492</sup> foll. XII,<sup>6145</sup>), they said they were just as good as the Deva's (XII,<sup>6148</sup>) and envied their happiness (XII,<sup>7611</sup>). Intoxicated with power they

tortured creatures, made confusion in everything, even challenged the Deva's, and what more is opposed themselves to the law of Brahmā (XII, 6145); they even succeeded for a time in dethroning Indra and putting Vali in his place, cfr. under Indra. But as they had thus changed their nature, Ārī forsook them.

Tatah kālaviparyāse  
teṣāṃ guṇaviparyayāt  
apaṇyāṃ nirgataṃ dharmaṃ  
kāmakrodhavaçātmanām XII, 8382, 8360.

- o: Thereupon in the course of time  
on account of their change of qualities  
I saw that Dharma disappeared  
from them who were animated by passion and rage.

Allusions to this disastrous war between the Asura's and the Sura's are to be found in III, 8691 foll., 13215, 14570 foll. V, 3584, 7024. VII, 4601, 4925, 5773, 7075, 7540. VIII, 3024, 1391 foll. (the sons of Tāraka). IX, 1352, 1750, 2450 foll. (Kumāra). XII, 1185 (the Brāhmaṇa's side with the Dānava's), 6145 (Rudra), 7610 foll. (Viṣṇu), 8181, 8218.

In the description of the different kinds of Asura's several like traits recur which clearly show that they all belong to one another, even if they have many different names, and in details seem to be different. And that by Asura's the Aborigenes of India have been understood, seems to be evident from several things:

1. It is said of them, for instance, that they live in mountains, forests and in the earth.
2. That the Asura's are older than the Sura's, and that the earth originally belonged to them.

3. Whilst the Asura's generally live in enmity with the Sura's (Aryan's?) f.i. they disturb the sacrificial fire (the watch-fires of the advancing Aryans?), try to take possession of the three strongholds and the Triloka, the three worlds, and a Rāxasa carries off Bhrigu's wife, and so on.
4. Still they contract alliances with them: Arjuna espouses king Vāsuki's sister, Mātali's daughter marries the Nāga Sumukha (V,3672), the Nāga Taxaka is an intimate friend of Indra (I,8089), the Rāxasa Puruloma had been betrothed to Bhrigu's wife before she had been given in marriage to Bhrigu (I,893), Ghaṭotkaca is a son of Bhīma and the Rāxasa woman Hiḍimbā. Rāxasa's and Yaxa's are even named incidentally as being in the army of the Deva's.
5. As we have seen above, the Asura's are also grouped with different Hindu tribes, and the Nāga people live unto this day in Bengal and Assam in a half savage condition.
6. In the strife between the Kuruids and the Paṇḍuids some Asura's stand by the Kuruids (VII,4412).
7. When the Asura's are often described as bahurūpa, have many shapes, this description is well suited to a people who lead a guerrilla war against their enemies and are sometimes in one place, sometimes in another.

While thus there can scarcely be a doubt as to the fact of the wars between the Asura's and the Sura's being originally a strife between two different tribes, still it seems as if this circumstance has been forgotten in the course of time, and the battle has become a symbol of the eternal struggle between good and bad.

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## II. THE SURA'S.

The Suras (I,264. III,11089, 12054, 12992 etc. etc.) are also called Deva's, the shining (III,11855. VIII,1405. XII,439, 1184 etc.), and Divāukāsas, inhabitants of the shining heavens (I,2500). Sura is derived from svar and Deva from diu div, and both these verbs mean to shine. They are called Tridaśa (I,3551. III,8162, 8854. VII,1466. XII,8419. XIII,308, 3334) in accordance with their number, the thirty, by which, no doubt, is meant the 33, trayas-trimṇā ity- ete devā I,2601. As immortals they are called Amara (III 2137, 12077).

They move in the air, devās antarīkṣarās (IX,3089) and high up above the earth do they dwell in Tridiva (XVII,77. XII,1184), in Svarga (cfr. Indra), and from here they descend to earth (I,2500), where the mountain Meru (VI,204. I,1098) in Himālaya between Malayavat and Gandhamādana, is their meeting place and pleasure ground (I,1098, 1114. XII,12986). This gold mountain is the highest of all mountains. It is round as a ball, shines like the morning sun, and is like a fire without smoke. It is 84000 yojana's high and goes as far down in depth, and it overshadows the worlds above and below and across. All birds on this mountain have golden feathers, wherefore the bird Sumukha, a son of Suparna, left the mountain (in disgust) because there was no difference between good, middling, and bad birds. The sun and the moon and Vāyu (the god of the winds) go

round this mountain. It is furnished with heavenly flowers and fruit, and covered everywhere with bright gold dwellings. Here on this mountain, hosts of Deva's, Gandharva's, Asura's and Rāxasa's, play together with crowds of Apsarases. The top of Meru is covered with forests that are beautified with flowers and the wide-stretching branches of Jambu trees, and which resound with the melodious voices of kinnari'es (XIII,<sup>4862</sup>).

The Signs, liṅgāni, which distinguish the Gods from mankind are the following: They do not sweat, their eyes do not twinkle, their feet do not touch the ground, they always wear fresh wreaths, and they have no shadow:

Yathoktaṁ cakrire devāḥ  
sāmarthyam liṅgadhāraṇe  
sāpaçyad vibudhān sarvān  
asvedān stabdhalocanān  
hr̥ṣitasragrajo hīnān  
sthitān aspr̥cataḥ xitim̐ III,<sup>2214</sup>.

- o: The gods did as they had been adjured and assumed their respective attributes as best they could. And thereupon she beheld the celestials unmoistened with perspiration, with winkless eyes, and unfading garlands, unstained with dust, and staying without touching the ground.

(Roy.)

According to XII,<sup>12556</sup> the Gods are immortalized deified human beings, some of whom are said to have attained Heaven through their good deeds:

Evam̐ Rudrāḥ sa-Vasavaḥ  
tath-Ādityāḥ parantapa  
Sādhyā Rājarsisaṅghāç ca

dharmam etam samācṛitāh  
 Apramattās tatah Svargam  
 prāptāh puṇyāih svakarmabhih XII,634, 12556.  
 o: Thus Rudra's and Vasu's  
 likewise Āditya's, o thou pursuer of enemies,  
 Sādhyā's and numbers of Royal wise men,  
 who have followed this Dharma  
 without fail, have thereupon  
 attained Svarga by their good deeds.

And those who have been the greatest killers, i. e.  
 heroes, are the most esteemed (XII,439).

### THE DEEDS OF THE SURA'S.

The Churning of the Ocean and the Slaughter  
 of the Asura's.

(According to the Rāmāyaṇa).

The Sura's and the Asura's churned the milky ocean jointly, in order to possess themselves of the drink of immortality, Amṛta. They used the serpent-prince Vāsuki with the 100 heads for the churning rope and the mount Mandara as a churning stick. First came forth the dreadful poison Halāhala which Ṣaṅkara (Qiva) swallowed, then the well-skilled man in medicine, the upright Dhanvantari with staff and crock, together with the radiant Apsarases. Then the Goddess of Fortune appeared Laxmī (Qri) and the happy Vāruṇī Varuṇa's daughter, (the grape vine), who desired union. Diti's sons would not have her, but Aditi's sons took her the blameless in marriage and were glad and joyful. Thereupon came forth the finest of horses Uccāih-

çravas, and the pearl of jewels Kāustubha, and finally the immortal beverage Amṛta. But this last was the cause of a great family-destruction, for the sons of Aditi fought with the sons of Diti, and a dreadful war commenced which brought confusion into the three worlds. The sea-surrounded earth with its mountains belonged formerly to the Dāitya's, but with the help of Viṣṇu the Deva's gained the superiority and destroyed Diti's sons. And then Purandara (Indra) ruled joyfully all the world with its Rṣi's and wandering minstrels.

Thus the story reads in the Rāmāyaṇa I,<sup>45</sup>, 15—45. VII,<sup>11</sup>, 14—18 (Bombay-Edition). The way in which it is told in the Mahābh. does not quite agree with this (cfr. supra) neither is it so well rounded, see I,<sup>1111</sup>. V,<sup>3613</sup>. VIII,<sup>2983</sup>. XII,<sup>1185</sup>, 12992, 7543.

15. Pūrvaṁ Kṛtayuge Rāma  
Diteḥ putrā mahābalāḥ  
Aditeç ca mahābhāgā  
vīryavantah sadharmikāḥ.
16. Tatas teṣāṁ naravyāghra  
buddhir āsīn mahātmanām:  
amarā vijarāç cāiva  
katham syāma nirāmayāḥ.
17. Teṣāṁ cintayatām tatra  
buddhir āsīd vipaçcitām:  
xīrodamathanam kṛtvā  
rasam prāpsyāma tatra vāi.
18. Tato niçcitya mathanam  
yoktram kṛtvā ca Vāsukim  
manthānam Mandaram kṛtvā  
mamanthur amitāujasah.

19. Atha varṣasahasreṇa  
yoktrasarpaçirāṃsi ca  
vamanto 'tviṣaṃ tatra  
dadam̐çur daçanāih çilāh.
20. Utpapātāgnisaṃkāçaṃ  
Hālāhala mahāviṣaṃ,  
tena dagdhaṃ jagat sarvaṃ  
sadevāsura mānuṣaṃ.
21. Atha devā mahādevaṃ  
Çaṃkaraṃ çaraṇārthinaḥ  
jagmuḥ paçupatiṃ Rudraṃ  
trāhi trāhiti tuṣṭuvuh.
22. Evaṃ uktas tato devāir  
devadeveçvarah prabhuh.  
prādur āsīt, tato 'trāiva  
çaṅkhacakra dharo Hariḥ
23. Uvācāinaṃ smitaṃ kṛtvā  
Rudraṃ çūladharaṃ Hariḥ:  
dāivatair mathyamāne tu  
yat pūrvaṃ samupasthitaṃ
24. Tat tvadīyaṃ suraçreṣṭha,  
surāṇāṃ agrato hi yat  
agrapūjāṃ iha sthitvā  
grhāṇēdaṃ viṣaṃ prabho.
25. Ity-uktvā ca suraçreṣṭhas  
tat trāivāntaradhiyata  
devatānāṃ bhayaṃ drṣṭvā  
çrutvā vākyaṃ tu çārāṅinaḥ
26. Hālāhalaṃ viṣaṃ ghoraṃ  
saṃjagrāhāmṛtopamaṃ  
devān viṣjya deveço  
jagāma bhagavān Haraḥ.



27. Tato devāsurāḥ sarve  
mamanthū Raghunandana  
praviveçātha Pātālam  
manthānah parvatottamah.
28. Tato devāḥ sagandharvās  
tuṣṭuvur Madhusūdanam:  
tvaṁ gatiḥ sarvabhūtānām  
viçeṣeṇa divāukasām
29. Pālayāsmān mahābāho  
girim uddhartum arhasi  
iti çrutvā Hṛṣikeçah  
kāmaṭham rūpam āsthitah.
30. Parvataṁ prṣṭhatas kṛtvā  
çiçye tatrōdadhāu Hariḥ  
parvatāgram tu lokātmā  
hastenākramya Keçavah
31. Devānām madhyataḥ sthitvā  
mamantha puruṣottamah.  
Atha varṣasahasreṇa  
āyurvedamayah pumān
32. Udatiṣṭhat sudharmātmā  
sadaṇḍah sakamaṇḍaluh  
atha Dhanvantarir nāma  
Apsarāç ca suvarcasah
33. Apsu nirmanthanād eva  
rasāt tasmād varastriyah  
utpetur manujaçreṣṭha  
tasmād apsaraso 'bhavan
34. Ṣaṣṭiḥ koṭyo 'bhavans tāsām  
apsarāṇām suvarcasām  
asamkhyeyās tu Kākutstha  
yās tāsām paricārikāḥ

35. Na tāh sma pratigrhṇanti  
sarve te devadānavāh,  
apratigrahaṇād eva  
tā vāi sādharmaṇāh smṛtāh.
36. Varuṇasya tatah kanyā  
Vāruṇī Raghunandana  
utpapāta mahābhāgā  
margamānā parigrahaṁ.
37. Diteh putrā na tām Rāma  
jagrabur Varuṇātmaṇā  
Adites tu sutā vīra  
jagṛhus tām aninditām.
38. Asurās tena Dāiteyāh  
Surās tenāditeh sutāh,  
hr̥ṣṭāh pramuditāḥ cāsan  
Vāruṇīgrahaṇāt-Surāh.
39. Uccāihṣravā hayaḥreṣṭho  
maniratnaṁ ca Kāustubhaṁ  
udatiṣṭhan naraḥreṣṭha  
tathāivā mṛtaṁ uttamam.
40. Atha tasya kṛte Rāma  
mahān āsīt kulaxayah  
Adites tu tatah putrā  
Diti-putrān ayodhayan.
41. Ekatām agaman sarve  
Asurā Rāxasāḥ saha,  
yuddham āsīn mahāghoraṁ  
vīra Trāilokyamohanam
42. Yadā xayaṁ gataṁ sarvaṁ  
tadā Viṣṇur mahābalaḥ  
Amṛtaṁ so 'harat tūrṇam  
māyām āsthāya mōhinīm

43. Ye gatābhimukhaṁ Viṣṇum  
axaraṁ puruṣottamaṁ  
saṁpiṣṭās te tadā yuddhe  
Viṣṇunā prabhaviṣṇunā.
44. Aditer ātmajā vīrā  
Diteh putrān nijaghnire  
asmin ghore mahāyuddhe  
Dāiteyādityayor bhr̥ṣam.
45. Nihatya Ditiputrāṁs tu  
rājyaṁ prāpya Purāṁdaraḥ  
çaçāsa mudito lokān  
sarṣisaṁghān sacāraṇān.
- o: 15. Formerly in the Kṛtayuga, o Rāma,  
Diti's sons (were) very powerful  
and Aditi's sons very happy  
mighty and just.
16. Then, o thou man-tiger,  
it occurred to the high-minded:  
how shall we become immortal  
and without old age and sickness.
17. While they considered this  
it occurred to the wise:  
having churned the milky ocean  
we shall verily obtain the juice.
18. Thereupon having decided upon the churning  
and having made Vāsuki into a churning rope  
and Mandara into a churning-stick  
then did the incomparably mighty churn.
19. Then for a thousand years  
the churnrope-serpent's heads  
spitting here a strong poison  
bit the rocks with their teeth.

20. Then sprang forth the fiery  
strong poison Hālāhala,  
all creation was burned by that,  
both Deva's, Asura's and men.
21. Then the Deva's taking refuge  
with the great god Caṅkara  
went to the cattle king Rudra,  
save (us), save (us), so (saying) they praised (him).
22. Thus addressed by the gods  
the lord of the gods the mighty one  
appeared there;  
the conch-and-discus-holding Hari.
23. Then said to him smiling  
to Rudra the trident-bearing (said) Hari:  
in the sea-churning by the gods  
that which first came forth
24. That is thine, o best of the Sura's,  
because thou standest at the head of the Sura's,  
please to accept as the highest worship  
this poison, o thou mighty one.
25. And so having spoken  
the best of Sura's disappeared there,  
but having seen the fear of the gods  
and having heard the words of the hornbow-owners
26. He swallowed the dreadful poison  
as if it were Amṛta,  
and having dismissed the gods  
he the lord of the gods, the great Hara, went away.
27. Thereupon all the Deva's and Asura's  
churned (again), o Rāghunandana,  
and the churning stick, the most excellent  
of all mountains entered Hell, Pātāla.

28. Then the Deva's together with the Gandharva's  
praised Madhusūdana:  
thou art the refuge of all creatures  
especially of the inhabitants of heaven.
29. Save us, o thou mighty-armed,  
thou shouldst lift up the mountain,  
having heard this Hṛiṣikeṣa  
transformed himself into a tortoise
30. (And) having the mountain on his back  
Hari lay there in the ocean,  
but he, the soul of the world, Keçava,  
having seized the top of the mountain with his hand,
31. Standing in the midst of the Deva's,  
churned (the ocean) he highest of beings.  
Then after a thousand years  
came the very upright man
32. Well skilled in medicine  
with staff and crock  
namely Dhanvantarī,  
and the Apsaras, the very shining,  
the bright ones,
33. Because of the churning, in the water  
out of that liquid, the excellent women  
appeared, o thou best of men,  
therefore were they (called) Apsaras.
34. Sixty koṭi's were there of those  
most shining Apsarases;  
but countless (were they), o Kākutstha,  
who were their servants.
35. All those Deva's and Dānava's  
did not take in marriage,

- therefore as they were not married  
were they just called common (property).
36. Varuṇa's daughter, Vārunī,  
thereupon, o Raghunandana,  
appeared, she the happy  
seeking marriage.
37. Diti's sons, o Rāma,  
took her not Varuṇa's daughter,  
but Aditi's sons, o hero,  
took her the blameless one (in marriage).
38. Asura's are therefore (called) Diti's sons,  
Sura's therefore Aditi's sons;  
glad and happy were  
the Sura's on account of their marriage with V.
39. Uccaiḥśravas, the first of horses,  
and the pearl of gems Kāustubha  
(thereupon) arose, o thou best of men,  
likewise Amṛita, the excellent.
40. Thereupon on account of this, o Rāma,  
there was great family-destruction,  
for henceforth Aditi's sons  
fought with the sons of Diti.
41. All the Asura's associated with the Rāksasa's,  
a frightful battle took place  
which threw the three worlds into confusion.
42. When all was destroyed  
then Viṣṇu, the powerful  
took the Amṛita hurriedly  
with the aid of the confusing Māyā.
43. Those who were opposed to Viṣṇu  
the imperishable, the most supreme of men,

they were crushed in the battle  
by Viṣṇu, the powerful.

44. Aditi's sons, the heroes,  
violently struck down Diti's sons  
in that great and dreadful battle  
between the Dāitya's and the Āditya's.
45. But having destroyed Diti's sons  
(and) having achieved the kingdom  
Purandara ruled joyfully over the world  
with its numbers of Rīṣi's and minstrels.

14. Sāubhrātraṁ nāsti cūrāṇām  
ṛṇu cēdaṁ vaco mama:  
Aditiḥ ca Ditiḥ cāiva  
bhaginyāu sahite hi te
15. Bhārye paramarūpinyāu  
Kaṣyapasya prajāpateh,  
Aditir janayām āsa  
Devāṁs Tribhuvaneṣvarān,
16. Ditis tv-ajanayad Dāityān  
Kaṣyapasyātmasambhavān,  
Dāityānām kila dharmajña  
purēyaṁ vasanārṇavavā
17. Saparvatā mahī vīra,  
te 'bhavan prabhaviṣṇavah,  
nihatya tāṁs tu samare  
Viṣṇuṇā prabhaviṣṇunā
18. Devānām vaçam ānītaṁ  
Trāilokyam idam avyayaṁ

- o: 14. Good fellowship is not to be found amongst heroes,  
and hear these my words:

- Aditi and Diti  
were both sisters
15. The extremely beautiful wives  
of Kaṣyapa prajāti,  
Aditi gave birth to  
the Deva's, the Lords of the three worlds.
16. But Diti gave birth to the Dāitya's,  
Kaṣyapa's sons.  
To the Dāitya's certainly belonged,  
o thou in the Dharma well versed,  
of yore the sea-washed
17. and with mountains furnished Earth,  
they were very strong  
but after having killed them in the strife,  
by the aid of the very strong Viṣṇu
18. the imperishable three worlds  
were delivered over into the power of the Deva's.
- 

The Sura's or Deva's consist, like the Asura's, of several different classes of beings, of which some may be said to be less immortal than others. I shall arrange them alphabetically.

A. Āditya's. These are 12. They were the sons of Kaṣyapa prajāpati and Aditi (cfr. under Sūrya), Daxa prajāpati's daughter (XII, 7538, 7543), called Devamātar, the mother of the Deva's (IX, 2515). They are said to be the foremost of the Deva's and to be very strong, devaṇreṣṭha, mahābala (XII, 7543). In I, 2523 they are thus named:

Adityāṁ dvādaçāditāḥ  
sambhūtā Bhuvaneçvarāḥ



ye rājan nāmatas tāms te  
 kīrtayiṣyāmi Bhārata:  
 Dhātā Mittro 'ryamā Qakro  
 Varuṇas tv-Amṇa eva ca  
 Bhago Vivasvān Pūṣā ca  
 Savitā daṇamas tathā  
 ekādaṇas tathā Tvaṣṭā  
 dvādaṇo Viṣṇur ucyate.

In XII,<sup>7581</sup> and in XIII,<sup>7092</sup> (Jayanta) nearly the same names occur, but in XIX,<sup>11548</sup> the list appears corrupted thus:

Adityām jajñire rājan  
 Ādityāh Kaṇyapād atha:  
 Indro Viṣṇur Bhagas Tvaṣṭā  
 Varuṇo 'mṇo 'ryamā Ravih  
 Pūṣā Mittraṇ ca varado  
 Manuh Parjanya eva ca  
 ity-ete dvādaṇādityā  
 variṣṭhās Tridivāukasaḥ

ofr. Hariv. 175, 594, 11549, 12456, 12912, 13143, 14167, in I,<sup>4824</sup> thus:

Dhātāryamā ca Mittraṇ ca  
 Varuṇo 'mṇo Bhagas tathā  
 Indro Vivasvān Pūṣaṇ ca  
 Tvaṣṭā ca Savitā tathā  
 Parjanyaṇ cāiva Viṣṇuṇ ca  
 Ādityā dvādaṇa smṛtāḥ,

Where there is one too many.

Of the twelve names of the Āditya's Bhaga, Amṇa, Aryaman, Mittra, Savitar, Ravi, Bhāskara, Vivasvan and Pūṣan, are, no doubt, synonymous expressions for the Sun

which in the course of time and at different periods has received different names, and Dhātar and Tvaṣṭar for Brahmā, the creator, and Jayanta, Parjanya and Indra for Çakra. Manu is doubtless a synonym for Brahmā.

### 1. Brahman.

#### A. Brahma (Neutrum) is

a) objectively the impersonal primeval being, from which all existence has sprung, in which it exists, and to which it returns. It is eternal, çāçvata, sanātana, it subsists on itself, svayambhū, is invisible, avyakta, unborn, aja, unchangeable, dhruva, imperishable, avyaya, axara, has neither beginning nor end, anādyanta.

As far as Brahma is the seed or germ from which all things have arisen, the centre, the hidden being, the deep, the essential, the primitive in everything, the string upon which the pearls are strung, it is also said to be the whole universe, the whole existence in manifold shapes, ekaanekadhā (XII, 8141).

But Brahma is without characteristics, nir-līnga, without qualities, nirguṇa, and without contrasts, nirdvandva.

Brahma is before creation, Brahma creates the fundamental elements (XII, 8611, cfr. 6775, and XII, 8522, 8139, 13737. III, 12806. XIV, 5221, cfr. Manu I, 9), in the shape of Brahmā prajāpati (Masculinum, see below) step by step the rest of creation (cfr. Fire Forst. p. 9 follow.).

But as all things have sprung from Brahma, thus all things return to him in the time of dissolution and annihilation, pralaya.

The time which passes between a dissolution and a creation is called a Brahma's day, and consists of 1000 yuga's (XII,<sup>8506</sup>. III,<sup>12832</sup>). And the time between a general dissolution and a creation is called a Brahma's night and consists likewise of a 1000 yuga's.

Brahma is named and described in XII,<sup>6775</sup>, <sup>6802</sup> under the name of Mānasa, and is sometimes also called Puruṣa.

In illustration of what I have said above I refer to the following verses:

Etad Brahma-vidam tāta  
 veditam Brahma cāçvataṁ XII,<sup>8499</sup>. III,<sup>190</sup>.  
 ... tad avyaktam param Brahma  
 tac chāçvataṁ anuttamaṁ XII,<sup>8571</sup>, <sup>11724</sup>  
 Gambhīraṁ gaḥanaṁ Brahma  
 mahat toyārṇavaṁ yathā  
 anādinidhanaṁ cāhur  
 axaraṁ xaraṁ eva ca  
 Sattveṣu liṅgaṁ āviçya  
 nirliṅgaṁ api tat svayaṁ  
 manyante dhruvaṁ evāinaṁ  
 ye janās tattvadarçinaḥ XII,<sup>8135</sup>.  
 Divākaro gaṇaṁ upalabhya nirguṇo  
 yathā bhaved apagata vaçmimaṇḍalah  
 tathā hy-asāu munir iha nirviçeṣavān  
 sa nirguṇaṁ praviçati Brahma cāvyayaṁ  
 Anāgataṁ sukr̥tavatāṁ parāṁ gatiṁ  
 svayambhuvaṁ prabhavanidhānaṁ avyayaṁ  
 sanātanaṁ yad amṛtaṁ avyayaṁ dhruvaṁ  
 vicārya tat param amṛtatvaṁ açnute XII,<sup>7516</sup>  
 Anādyantaṁ ajaṁ divyaṁ  
 ajaraṁ dhruvaṁ avyayaṁ

apratarkyam avijñeyam  
 Brahmâgre sampravartate XII,<sup>8488</sup>.  
 Evaṁ bruvann eva tadā  
 dadarṣa tapasām nidhiṁ  
 tam avyayam anāupamyam  
 acintyam cācīvataṁ dhruvaṁ  
 Niṣkalaṁ sakalaṁ Brahma  
 nirguṇaṁ guṇagocaram etc. XIII,<sup>1043</sup>.  
 Ādyam puruṣaṁ iṣānaṁ  
 puruhūtaṁ purustutaṁ  
 ṛtam ekāxaraṁ Brahma  
 vyaktāvyaktaṁ sanātanaṁ  
 Asac ca sadasac cāiva  
 yad viçvaṁ sadasatparam  
 parāvarānām sraṣṭāraṁ  
 purāṇaṁ param avyayaṁ I,<sup>22</sup>, 30.  
 Yattad ekāxaraṁ Brahma  
 nānārūpaṁ pradiçyate XII,<sup>7894</sup>.  
 Brahma tejomayaṁ çukraṁ  
 yasya sarvaṁ idaṁ jagat  
 ekasya bhūtaṁ bhūtasya  
 dvayaṁ sthāvarajaṅgamaṁ  
 Aharmukhe vibuddhah san  
 sṛjate 'vidyayā jagat XII,<sup>8510</sup>.  
 Yadā tāih pañcabhih pañca  
 yuktāni manasā saha  
 atha tad draxyate Brahma  
 maṇāu sūtram ivārpitaṁ XII,<sup>7486</sup>. VI,<sup>1118</sup>.  
 Idaṁ viçvaṁ jagat sarvaṁ  
 ajayyaṁ cāpi sarvaçah  
 mahābhūtātmakaṁ Brahma  
 nātaḥ parataraṁ bhavet

Mahābhūtāni khaṁ vāyur  
 agnir āpas tathā ca bhūh  
 çabdah sparçaç ca rūpañ ca  
 raso gandhaç ca tadguṇāh III,<sup>13913</sup>, cfr. XII,<sup>7</sup>.  
 Vedyāṁ sarpa paraṁ Brahma  
 nirdukhkam asukhañ ca yat III,<sup>12471</sup>  
 Sarvatah pānipādaç ca  
 sarvato 'xiçromukhaḥ  
 sarvatah çrutimān loke  
 sarvaṁ vyāpya sa tiṣṭhati XIV,<sup>1087</sup>.  
 Yato jagat sarvaṁ idam prasūtaṁ  
 jñātvātmavanto vyatīyānti yattat  
 yan mantraçabdāir akṛtaprakāçaṁ  
 tad ucyamānaṁ çṛṇu me paraṁ yat  
 rasāir vimuktaṁ vividhāiç ca gandhāir  
 açaḥdam asparçaṁ arūpavañ ca  
 pañcaprakārān sasrje prajānām  
 Na strī pumān nāpi na puṁsakañ ca  
 na san na cāsat sadasac ca tan na  
 paçyanti yad Brahma-vido manuṣyās  
 tad axaraṁ na xaratīti viddhi XII,<sup>7391</sup>.  
 Axarāt khaṁ tato vāyus  
 tato jyotis tato jalaṁ  
 jalāt prasūtā jagatī  
 jagatyām jāyate jagat  
 Etāih çarīrāir jalam eva gatvā  
 jalāc ca tejah pavano 'ntarīxam  
 khād vāi nivartanti na bhāvinas te  
 monaṁ ca te vāi param āpnuvanti  
 Nōṣṇaṁ na çītaṁ mṛdu nāpi tīkṣṇaṁ  
 nāmlam kaṣāyaṁ madhuraṁ na tiktam

na çabdavan nâpī ca gandhavat tan  
 na rūpavat tat paramasvabhāvam XII,7394.  
 Brahma tat paramam jñānam  
 amṛtaṁ jyotir axaram XII,7839.  
 Sampraxālanakāle 'tikrānte  
 caturyugasahasrānte  
 avyakte sarvabhūtapralaye  
 sarvabhūtasthāvarajaṅgame  
 Jyotirdharanivāyurahite andhe  
 tamasi jalāikārnave loke  
 āpa ity-evam Brahmabhūtam etc. XII,13190.  
 Pratyāhāran tu vaxyāmi  
 carvayadāu gate 'hani  
 yathēdam kurute 'dhyātman  
 susūxman viçvam içvarah  
 Divi sūryas tathā sapta  
 dahanti çikhino 'rciçah  
 sarvam etat tadarcirbhīh  
 pūrnam jājvalyate jagat  
 Pṛthivyām yāni bhūtāni  
 jaṅgamāni dhruvāni ca  
 tāny-evāgre praliyante  
 bhūmitvam upayānti ca  
 Tatah pralīne sarvasmin  
 sthāvare jaṅgame tathā  
 nirvṛxā nistṛṇā bhūmir  
 drçyate kūrmapṛṣṭhavat... XII,8555. III,12808 follow.  
 Evam sarvāni bhūtāni  
 Brahmāiva pratisaṁcarah  
 yathāvat kirtitam samyag  
 evam etad asaṁçayam.

Bodhyaṃ vidyāmayam dṛṣṭvā  
 yogibhiḥ paramātmabhiḥ  
 evaṃ vistārasaṅxepāu  
 Brahmāvyakte punah punah  
 Yugasāhasrayor ādāv  
 ahorātras tathāiva ca XII,<sup>8572</sup>.

Brahma in an objective sense is sometimes identified with Kāla on whom all things depend (XII,<sup>736</sup>) and who is again identical with Mr̥tyu, both of whom destroy and swallow up every thing as Brahma does.

This may be seen from the following passages:

... taṃ Kālam iti jānīhi  
 yasya sarvam idaṃ vaḥ XII,<sup>8141</sup>, <sup>8136</sup> follow.

- o: know that he (Brahma) is time  
 in whose power all this (universe) is.

Kālo 'smi lokaxayakṛt pravṛddho VI,<sup>1278</sup>

- o: I am Kāla the very mighty destroyer of the world.

Kālam sarveṣāṃ akarot  
 saṃhāravīṇayātmakam XII,<sup>4501</sup>.

Sarve Kālena sṛjyante  
 hriyante ca punah punah XIII,<sup>56</sup>.

- o: all are created by Kāla  
 and carried away again and again.

Mr̥tyu Kālena coditah VII,<sup>3135</sup>, <sup>5196</sup>.

Mr̥tyo saṃkalpitā me tvam  
 prajāḥ saṃhārahetunā

<sup>1</sup> The ancient Hindu's have had the same impression of time's eternity as we receive from reading geological descriptions of the history of the Earth; cfr. Lubbock, *The Beauties of Nature*.

gaccha saṁhara sarvās tvam  
 prajā mā ca vicāraya XII,<sup>9195</sup>.

o: O Death, thou hast been sent forth by me  
 to destroy creatures  
 go thou (and) destroy all  
 creatures and have no scruples.

Śiva and Viṣṇu are sometimes characterized in the the same manner as Brahma, that is to say, their worshippers love to enhance their glory by giving them Brahma's qualities. Cfr. Śiva and Viṣṇu.

b) In a subjective sense Brahma is that condition of a human being, that is: its ātman, soul, through which it has (been transformed into being) the same as the impersonal, disembodied Brahma, because by penance and knowledge it frees itself from all cravings, inclinations and passions, and attains Nirvāṇa o: the extinction of all desire for existence and holding on to life, that is to say: will not be reborn, but is absorbed into the objective Brahma and becomes part of it.

In explanation of this I cite the following verses:

Atha tatra virāgī sa  
 gacchati tv-atha saṁçayam  
 param avyayam icchan sa  
 tam evâviçate punah  
 Amṛtāc cāmṛtaṁ prāptah  
 çāntibhūto nirātmavān  
 Brahmabhūtah sa nirdvandvah  
 sukhī çānto nirāmayah  
 Brahmasthānam anāvarttam  
 ekam axarasañjñakam  
 aduhkham ajaram çāntam  
 sthānam tat pratipadyate XII,<sup>7323</sup>.



- o: If, however, he goes to those regions after having freed himself from attachments, and feels a mistrust (respecting the felicity he enjoys) and wishes for That which is Supreme and Immutable, he then enters even that. In that case he attains to the ambrosia of ambrosia, to a state free from desire and destitute of separate consciousness. He becomes Brahma's self, freed from the influence of opposites, happy, tranquil, and without pain. Indeed he attains to that condition which is free from pain, which is tranquillity's self, which is called Brahma, whence there is no return, and which is styled the One and Immutable.

Yac cêdam çrâvayed vidvân

sadâ parvaṇi parvaṇi

dhūtapāpmā jetasvargo

Brahmabhūyāya kalpate XVIII,<sup>187</sup>, cfr. I,<sup>2317</sup>.  
XIV,<sup>953</sup>.

- o: and when a wise man recites this,  
always at one festival after another,  
then he is transformed into being Brahma  
after having shaken off sin and conquered Svarga.

Yah syād ekāyane līnas

tuṣṇīm kiñcid acintayan

pūrvam pūrvam parityajya

tīrṇo bandhanād bhavet

sarvamiṭṭrah sarvasahah

çame rakto jitendriyah

vyapeta bhayamanyuḥ ca

ātmavān mucyate narah

Ātmavat sarvabhūteṣu

ac caren niyatah çucih...

Vihāya sarvasaṅkalpān  
 buddhyā cārāmaṇasān  
 çanāir nirvāṇam āpnoti  
 nirindhana ivānalāh  
 Sarvasaṁskāranirmukto  
 nirdvandvo niṣparigrahaḥ  
 tapasā indriyagrāmaṁ  
 yaç caren mukta eva saḥ  
 Vimuktasarvasaṁskārāis  
 tato Brahma sanātanaṁ  
 param āpnoti saṁçāntam  
 acalaṁ nityam axaraṁ. XIV,<sup>532</sup> foll.

- o: He who becomes absorbed in the one receptacle (of all things) freeing himself from even the thought of his own identity with all things — indeed ceasing to think of even his own existence — gradually casting off one after another, will succeed in crossing his bonds. That man who is the friend of all, who endures all, who is attached to tranquillity, who has conquered all his senses, who is divested of fear and wrath, and who is of restrained soul, succeeds, in emancipating himself. He who behaves towards all creatures as towards himself, who is restrained, pure, . . . Abandoning, with the aid of the understanding, all purposes relating to body and mind, one gradually attains to cessation of separate existence, like a fire unfed with fuel. One who is freed from all impressions, who transcends all pairs of opposites, who is destitute of all belongings, and who uses all his senses under the guidance of penances, becomes emancipated. Having

become freed from all impressions, one then attains to Brahma which is eternal and supreme, and tranquil, and stable, and enduring, and indestructible. (Roy.)

Buddhih karmaguṇāir hīnā  
 yadā manasi vartate  
 tadā sampadyate Brahma,  
 tattraiva pralayaṁ gataṁ  
 Asparśanam aṣṭvānam  
 anāsvādam adarśanam  
 aghrāṇam avitarkaṇ'ca  
 sattvam praviṣate param,  
 Manasy-ākṛtayo magnā  
 manas tv-abhigataṁ matiṁ  
 matis tv-abhigatā jñānam  
 jñānaṁ cābhigataṁ param,  
 Indriyair manasah siddhir  
 na buddhiṁ budhyate manah  
 na buddhir budhyate vyaktaṁ  
 sūxmaṁ tv-etāni paçyati XII,<sup>7456</sup>

- o: When the understanding, freed from attachment to the objects of the senses, becomes fixed in the mind, then does one succeed in attaining to Brahma, for it is there that the mind with the understanding withdrawn into it can possibly be extinguished. Brahma is not an object of touch, or of hearing, or of taste, or of sight, or of smell, or of any deductive inference from the Known. Only the understanding (when withdrawn from every thing else) can attain to it. All objects that the mind apprehends through the senses are capable of being withdrawn into the mind; the mind can be withdrawn into the understanding; the Understanding can be

withdrawn into the Soul, and the Soul into the Supreme. The senses cannot contribute to the success of the mind. The mind cannot apprehend the Understanding. The Understanding cannot apprehend the manifested Soul. The Soul, however, which is subtile, beholds them all. (Roy.)

Ity-evam uktvā vacanaṁ  
 maharṣiḥ sumahātapāḥ  
 prātiṣṭhata Ākṛāḥ siddhiṁ  
 hitvā doṣāṁc caturvidhān,  
 Tamo hy-aṣṭavidhaṁ hitvā  
 jahāu pañcavidhaṁ rajah  
 tataḥ sattvaṁ jahāu dhīmāṁs  
 tad adbhutam ivābhavat,  
 Tatas tasmin pade nitye  
 nirguṇe liṅgavarjite  
 Brahmani pratyatiṣṭhat sa  
 vidhūmo 'gnir iva jvalan XII.<sup>12608.</sup>

- o: Having spoken in this way, the regenerate Rishi of austere penances, viz. Ākṛā, stayed on his success, casting off the four kinds of faults. Casting off also the eight kinds of Tamas, he dismissed the five kinds of Rajas. Endued with great intelligence, he then cast off the attribute of Satta. All this seemed exceedingly wonderful. He then dwelt in that eternal station that is destitute of attributes freed from every indication, that is, in Brahma, blazing like a smokeless fire. (Roy.)

Yadā saṁharate kāmān kūrmo 'ṅgāpīva sarvaṇaḥ  
 tadātmajyotiḥ ātmāyam ātmany-eva prapaçyati  
 XII.<sup>6508.</sup>

- o: When a person succeeds in withdrawing all his desires like a tortoise withdrawing all its limbs, then his soul, which is self-luminous, succeeds in looking into itself. (Roy.)

Yadā cāyam na bibheti  
 yadā cāsmān na bibhyati  
 yadā nêcchati na dveṣṭi  
 Brahma sampadyate tadā, (= XII,781, 6509.)  
 Yadā na kurute bhāvam  
 sarvabhūteṣu pāpakam  
 karmaṇā manasā vācā  
 Brahma sampadyate tadā (= XII,6511.)  
 na bhūto na bhaviṣyo 'sti  
 na ca dharmo 'sti kaçcana. XII,9354.

- o: When a person fears nothing and is not feared himself, when he cherishes no desire and hath no aversion for anything, he is then said to attain to Brahma. When a person does not conduct himself sinfully towards any creature in thought, word, or deed, then he is said to attain to Brahma. There is no past, no future. There is no morality or righteousness. (Roy.)

Jñānena hi yadā jantur  
 ajñānaprabhavam tamah  
 vyapohati tadā Brahma  
 prakāçati sanātanam XII,10000.

- o: When a person by knowledge disperses darkness which has its origin in ignorance, then the eternal Brahma appears.

Nānāmohasamāyuktā-  
 -buddhijālena saṁvṛtā

asūxmadrṣṭayo mandā  
 bhrāmyante tatra tatra ha  
 Susūxmadrṣṭayo rājan  
 vrajanti Brahma ṣāṣvātaṁ XIII,191.

- o: They who give themselves up to all sorts of folly, they who are ensnared in the net of ignorance, they who cannot see the sublime, the dull, they run here and there, (but) they who clearly see the sublime, they go to the eternal Brahma.  
 Xamā Brahmā o: forgiveness is Brahma, see Kaṣyapa's beautiful song in III,1100.

#### B. Brahmā (Masculinum).

Brahmā is the personal form of the impersonal Brahma which comprises all existence. As such he is the first creator, ādikartar o. the fashioner of all things.

Ādikartā sa bhūtānām  
 tam evāhuh Prajāpatiṁ,  
 sa vāi sṛjati bhūtāni  
 sthāvarāṇi carāṇi ca.  
 Tatah sa sṛjati Brahmā  
 devarṣipitrāmānavān  
 lokān nadīh samudrāṁḥ ca  
 diḡah ṣāilān vanaspatīn. etc. XII,3522.

- o: He is the first creator of beings  
 him they call Prajāpati  
 he surely creates beings, the firm and the moveable.  
 Thereupon that Brahmā creates  
 the Deva's, Rṣi's, and mankind,  
 the worlds, the rivers and the oceans,  
 the four quarters of the heavens,  
 the rocks, the trees etc.

And he is therefore also designated as Lokakṛt (I,2494), Trilokakṛt (XII,6978. XIV,521), Viṣvakṛt (I,928) and Dhātār (XII,441, 7550. I,2523), and especially often as Prajāpati, Lord of the creation:

Ahaṁ Prajāpatir Brahmā III,12797, 13585

o: I am Prajāpati Brahmā

and as Sarvalokapitāmaha, everyone's grandfather (I,901. II,485. IX,2495. XIV,521) and Lokapitāmaha (I,2074) or only Pitāmaha (XII,7604, 6145. III,11856).

When he furthermore often is called Svayambhū the self-existing (XII,7615) just like Brahma, then this title seems to point to his having from the first been looked upon as being identical with the impersonal, primordial being, see above p. 57. The same seems to be the case regarding the name Puruṣa which is also used in connection both with the personal and the impersonal Brahman. We meet therefore with different places where Brahmā is simply mixed up or confounded with Brahma, see XII,7569. III,12807 follow.

Of the creation in detail is told as follows:

Aṣṛjad brāhmaṇān evaṁ  
pūrvam Brahmā Prajāpatin  
ātmatejobhivinirvṛttān  
bhāskarāgnisamaprabhān  
Tataḥ satyaṁ ca dharmāṁ ca  
tapo Brahma ca çāçvātāṁ (!)  
ācāraṁ cāiva çāucaṁ ca  
svargāya vidadhe prabhuh.  
Deva-Dānava-Gandharvā  
Dāityāsura-Mahoragāh

Yaxa-Rāxasa-Nāgāṣ ca  
 Piṣācā Manujās tathā  
 Brāhmaṇāh Xatriyā Vāiṣyāh  
 Qūdrāṣ ca dvijasattama  
 ye cānye bhūtasamghānām  
 varṇāms tāmṣ cāpi nirmame. etc. XII,6980.

- o: Thus Brahmā created first  
 those brāhmaṇa's that are called Prajāpati's  
 who are distinguished by their splendour  
 inasmuch as they beam like the sun's fire.  
 Thereupon the Lord of Svarga created  
 Truth and Dharma, Penance  
 and the eternal Brahma(!)  
 and Good Behaviour and Purity etc.

Brahmā is then the first and the highest of the Prajāpati's. As these are so often spoken of I give their names here according to XII,7570, where they are mentioned as the 7 spiritual sons of Brahmā:

Marīcir Atry-Aṅgīrasāu  
 Pulaṣṭyah Pulaḥah Krātuh  
 Vaṣiṣṭhaṣ ca mahābhāgah  
 sadṛṣo vāi Svayambhuvā. Cfr. XII,12724.

In respect to this I remark that in XII,7534 and III,11854, Daxa is said to be the seventh, and that the same list, with the exception of Vaṣiṣṭha occurs in I,2518, 2568, and that longer lists of Prajāpati's and their descendents are to be found in II,4336. I,2519. XII,7571. XIII,4145.

Ṣiva is likewise called a son of Brahmā (XII,13723, 13705. VII,2048). When in Viṣṇuism which is without doubt the last phase of Indian mythology, it is said that



Brahmā has sprung from the Lotus that appeared in Viṣṇu's navel when he lay in yoga-worship (III,497, 15830) then this myth takes its root in the fact that Viṣṇu was identified with Brahma, but it does not harmonize with the idea of Brahmā as the creator of the world. The same will apply in reference to Īiva as having sprung out of the forehead of Viṣṇu (III,499) and not that of Brahmā.

When the gods are in distress they take refuge in Brahmā (I,225, 2491. III,8823. V,1917. XII,7613).

Above Svarga lie Brahmā's beautiful worlds. Brahmā's seat, *sadas*, is on Mahāmeru (III,11853). Of his Assembly-Hall, *sabha*, it is said in II,429.

Tatah sa Bhagavān Sūryo  
 mām upādāya vīryavān  
 āgacchat tām Sabhām Brāhmīm  
 vipāpmā vigataklamah,  
 Evaṁrūpēti sā cakrā  
 na nirdeṣṭum narādhipa  
 xanena hi bibharti-anya  
 anirdeṣyam vapus tathā  
 Na veda parimānam vā  
 samsthānam cāpi Bhārata  
 na ca rūpam mayā tādrg  
 dṛṣṭapūrvam kadācana  
 Susukhā sā sadā rājan  
 na cītā na ca gharmadā  
 na xutpipāse na glānīm  
 prāpya tām prāpnuvanti-uta,  
 Nānārūpāir iva kṛtā  
 manibhih sā subhāsvarāih

stambhāir na ca dhṛtā sā tu  
 cāçvatī na ca sā xarā  
 Divyāir nānāvidhāir bhāvāir  
 bhāsadbhir amitaprabhāih  
 ati candrañ ca sūryaṇ ca  
 çikhinañ ca svayamprabhā  
 dīpyate nākapṛsthasthā  
 bhartsayantīva bhāskaraṇ,  
 tasyām sa Bhagavān āste.

- ७: And the exalted and sinless deity Surya endued with great energy, and knowing no fatigue, took me with him to the Sabhā of the Grand-sire. O it is impossible to describe that Sabhā saying, it is such, for within a moment it assumes a different form that language fails to paint. O Bhārata, it is impossible to indicate its dimensions or shape. I never saw anything like it before. Ever contributing to the happiness of those within it, its atmosphere is neither cold nor warm. Hunger and thirst or any kind of uneasiness disappear as soon as one goeth thither. It seems to be made up of brilliant gems of many kinds. It doth not seem to be supported on columns. It knoweth no deterioration, being eternal. That self-effulgent mansion, by its numerous blazing celestial indications of unrivalled splendour, seems to surpass the moon, the sun, and the fire. Stationed in heaven, it blazes forth as if censuring the maker of the day. In that mansion, O king, the Supreme Deity, the Grand-sire of all created things, having himself, alone, created everything by virtue of his creative illusion, stayeth ever. (Roy.)

According to Viṣṇuism Brahmā derives his origin from the lotus that came from Viṣṇu's navel while he lay in yoga-sleep III,<sup>13559, 15821, 497.</sup>

In III,<sup>13561.</sup> XII,<sup>13723</sup> he is said to have 4 faces, caturmukha, caturvaktra, like Īiva.

His wife is called Sāvitṛī (XIII,<sup>6750, 7635</sup>).

His chariot, vimāna, which is as quick as thought, is harnessed with Haṁsa's (XIII,<sup>869</sup>).

His emblem is a lotus, padma (XIII,<sup>825</sup>).

His altar, vedi, is called Samantapañcaka (IX,<sup>3008, 3085</sup>).

#### The Deeds of Brahmā.

In XII,<sup>6150</sup> foll. the following is told about a great offering that Brahmā once arranged on the top of Himavat. On that occasion, it is said, a dreadful thing occurred.

Candramā vimalaṁ vyoma  
yathābhyuditatārakaṁ  
vikīryāgnim tathābhūtam  
utthitam ṣṛūyate tadā  
Nilotpalaśavarṇābhaṁ  
tīkṣṇadamaṣṭraṁ kṛṣṇodaraṁ  
prāñcūṁ sudurdharṣataraṁ  
tathāiva hy-amitañjasam,  
Tasminn utpatamāne ca  
pracacāla vasundharā  
mahormikalitāvartaḥ  
cuxubhe sa mahodadhih.

o: Even as the Moon (shows herself to be) after having strewn fire over the spotless heavens with rising stars, such a being is said to have appeared then

having the colour of the blue lotus having sharp teeth a small stomach being tall and difficult to withstand likewise of enormous strength, and the moment this being came into existence the earth trembled violently and the ocean rose in great waves causing maelstroms in its disturbance.

This being was called Asi and was a mighty sword that came forth to protect mankind and to destroy the enemies of the Sura's. Brahmā gave this sword to Rudra to avert misdoing. Rudra gave it to Viṣṇu, Viṣṇu to Marīci, Marīci to the great wise men (Rṣi's), these to Vāsava, and Vāsava to the Rulers of the world, these to Manu, son of the Sun, that is: to the Law.

## 2. Sūrya, the Sun.

Sūrya and Āditya are the common names for the sun. The name sūrya which means the Luminous, comes from the verb sūr, suar, svar — to shine, from which we also have svar and svarga.

Ekah Sūryah sarvam idaṁ vibhāti III,<sup>10658</sup>

o: The one sun lights all this (universe).

Kāmañ ca te kariṣyāmi

yan māñ vaxyasi Bāhuka

Vidarbhām yadi yātvādya

Sūryaṁ darṣayitāsi me III,<sup>2827, 11867.</sup>

o: I will fulfill your wish which ever you may mention, o Bāhuka, if you will go to-day to Vidarbhā and show me the sun.

Āditya (III,<sup>11874.</sup> XIII,<sup>7636</sup>) comes according to I,<sup>2523</sup> from Aditi who was the one of Daxa prajāpati's

daughters that married Kaçyapa prajāpati (XII,7537) and whose children are called Āditya's.

Adityām dvādaç-Ādityāh

sambhūtā bhuvaneçvarāh etc. see above.

o: From Aditi descend the 12 Āditya's,  
the rulers of the world.

Aditi as mother of the sun must doubtless be understood as a-diti, the boundless, the endless (light), cfr. Rigveda āditeya sūria. When she is called Devamātar (IX,2515), this means: the mother of the shining (gods).

The sun was made the ruler of the flaming lights (XII,4499).

As a Person the sun appears in III,17077, where it is said:

Ājagāma tato rājāms  
tvaramāno Divākarah  
madhupiṅgo mahābāhuh  
kambugrīvo hasann iva  
aṅgadi baddhamukūṭo  
diçah prajālayann iva.

o: Thereupon, o king, the Maker of the day came hastily, (he was) yellow as honey, had great arms, a neck like a tortoise shell, and he smiled, he wore bracelets, and was adorned with a diadem, and lit up all the quarters of the heavens.

His earrings Aditi had given him according to III,17118.

His wife is called in I,2599 Tvāstri vāḍavārūpa-dhāriṇī, who was in the shape of a mare, and in XIII,6751 Suvarcalā, the greatly shining.

His sister Sureṇu is married to Mārtaṇḍa (Harivaṃṣa 546).

His daughter Suprajā was married to Bhānu (III,14184).

As his son is named in XII,4495 Yama with the surname Vāivasvata ॐ: son of Vivasvat, cfr. Yama.

His car has but one wheel, and is drawn by a Nāga, see XII,13900.

Vivasvato gacchati paryayena  
voḍhum bhavāms taṃ ratham ekacakraṃ

ॐ: Thou goest in turn to draw  
that one-wheeled chariot of the sun

but according to VII,8681 it is drawn by 7 horses

Ekacakraṃ rathaṃ tasya  
taṃ ūhuh suciraṃ hayāḥ  
ekacakram ivārkasya  
rathaṃ sapta hayā yathā

ॐ: His one-wheeled chariot, the shining one,  
drew the horses, like the 7 horses (draw)  
the sun's one-wheeled chariot.

His charioteer is Aruṇa. Aruṇa is the name of the god of the Dawn, it means according to its derivation the red one, because the word is related to aruṣa, red.

Aruṇa and Garuḍa were Kaçyapa's sons by Vinatā, Daxa prajāpati's daughter (I,2520). Aruṇa was the elder and Garuḍa the younger, as it appears from the following tale (I,1073).

Daxa prajāpati had two beautiful daughters, Kadru and Vinatā. They became the wives of Kaçyapa, and he granted each (I,2520) of them a present. Kadru

chose 1000 sons in the form of serpents all equal in splendour, but Vinatā chose only two, that were to surpass Kadru's sons in splendour and strength. After a long time Kadru bore 1000 eggs and Vinatā 2. Five hundred years after this Kadru's sons came out of the eggs, but Vinatā's twins did not appear. Covered with shame Vinatā broke one of the eggs and saw a son whose one part was full grown, but whose other part was incomplete. In anger the son cursed his mother in the following words: Inasmuch as I am made incomplete by you, shall you become a slave, but if you live 5 thousand years without jealousy then shall you be freed from slavery, and if you will have your son to become famous you must till then guard him well. With these words he rose in the air and as Aruṇa he always sits at the front of the sun's chariot as charioteer (VII,7906). But Garuḍa was born at the appointed time. He has the serpents for food. As soon as he was born he forsook his mother and soared up into the air. He lives not only on serpents, but also on the leavings of others.

Aruṇa is called Kaṣyapa's wise son in I,1274.

Kaṣyapasya suto dhīmān

Aruṇēty-abhiviṣrutah

and the sun's charioteer who stands on the chariot in front of the sun, has a big body and great effulgence, and prevents the sun from burning up the world in his anger. In VII,8458 he is said to steal the splendour of the moon.

Garuḍa and Suparṇa are the most common names for the King of the Birds, paxirāj (III,10574).

Garuḍa and Suparṇa are perhaps expressions for the rapidity and strength of the light and the lightning.

Garuḍa means probably the same as garutmat, the winged one, from garut, a wing, for in V,<sup>3850</sup> Garuḍa is plainly adressed as Garutmat:

Garutman bhujagendrāre  
Suparṇa Vinatātmaja

Suparṇa means one who has handsome feathers or wings, from su and parṇa (V,<sup>3675</sup>, <sup>5290</sup>. I,<sup>1502</sup>, <sup>1518</sup>).

Garuḍa is, as explained above, Aruṇa's younger brother, Aruṇānuja (V,<sup>3853</sup>), and is called, like Aruṇa, a son of Vinatā and Kaṣyapa, Vinatāsūnu, Vāinateya, (I,<sup>1504</sup>. V,<sup>3587</sup>, <sup>3854</sup>) and Kāṣyapeya (I,<sup>1437</sup>).

According to V,<sup>3587</sup> Garuḍa has 6 sons: viz Sumukha, Sunāman, Sunetra, Suvarcas, Suruc and Suvala, and from them descend all Vinatā's kindred of serpent-eating birds who worship Viṣṇu as their great protector. About Sumukha see above p. 43.

Garuḍa lives south of Niṣadha in the land of Hiraṇmaya by the river Hiraṇvatī (VI,<sup>290</sup>).

He is pictured as being immensely big and strong and like Agni in splendour (I,<sup>1242</sup>, <sup>1245</sup>) and with eyes red as the clear lightning (I,<sup>1241</sup>). With the wind caused by his wings he is able to stop the (rotation of the) three worlds (V,<sup>3674</sup>. VIII,<sup>3426</sup>). His haste and violence is so great that he seems to drag the earth itself with its waters, mountains and forests after him (V,<sup>3857</sup>. VII,<sup>1605</sup>. I,<sup>1523</sup>). But once when he boasted of his strength Viṣṇu punished him for his arrogance by laying the whole weight of his right arm upon him (V,<sup>3674</sup>). How for an instant he loses his wings as a punishment for his bad thoughts is told in V,<sup>2873</sup>. How he is offended at being denied his lawful food the serpent Sumukha, is related in the same place.



From the time of creation the serpents are by the creator, dhātar, intended for Garuḍa's eating (V, 3677. I, 1093), therefore he is called the Serpent-eater, pannāgāçaka (II, 946. V, 3855), the serpent-destroyer, nāgaxayakara (I, 1247).

Garuḍa is portrayed on Viṣṇu's banner (XIII, 6820, 3686. I, 1510. V, 3701), cfr. Viṣṇu.

As to Garuḍa's Deeds we must mention, that at his birth he broke the egg without his mother's assistance, and immediately swung himself up into the air (I, 1299). His great achievement of stealing Amṛta from the Gods, is told in I, 1320—1545.

Amongst the 108 Names of the Sun (III, 146, mark the hymn to the sun III, 166) some signify his function of giving light, viz.

Arka, from arc, radiate, shine.  
 Tamisra-hjan, killing darkness.  
 Tamo-nuda, dispelling darkness.  
 Divā-kara, making light.  
 Dīptāmçu, having shining rays.  
 Prabhā-kara, making light.  
 Bhānu, from bhā, to shine.  
 Bhās-kara, making light.  
 Vibhāvasu, from bhā, to shine.  
 Vivasvat, from vas, to shine.  
 Sahasrāmçu, having a thousand rays.  
 Sūrya, from sūr, to shine.

And as such he is therefore called the Eye of the World:

Tvaṁ Bhāno jagataç caxus III, 166.

Ruler of all shining bodies, *īcām ... tejasām Bhāskarañ cakre XII,4499. IX,2316.*

And with his heat he calls forth and sustains all living things. Therefore he is also called: Father of all beings (III,135 follow. XIII,4620), and when he rises on the horizon, then all turn with a prayer towards him (VII,8459. III,11847, 164).

The following names belong doubtless to this side of his nature:

Aryaman	Pūṣan
Jīvana	Bhaga
Dhātār	Savitar
Pāvaka	

In XIII,1681 *Āditya* is said to be the Entrance to the Roads (Kingdom) of the Deva's:

*Ayam sa Devayānānām  
Ādityo dvāram ucyaṭe.*

And according to XII,11057 the whole world will shrivel or dry up at the moment of Dissolution.

Both phases of the nature of this deity we find in the Rigveda, expressed in the names of *Sūrya* and *Savitar*.

### 3. Indra.

Indra is the head of the Sura's (Deva's):

*Surānām pravara (III,10656)  
Devānām asmi Vāsavaḥ (VI,1226).*

According to XII,611. VI,240 he obtained *Indraship* through surpassing all the other gods by his sacrifices; in XII,3662 he is said, on the contrary, to have become

Devādhīpa after killing a number of Dāitya's and Dānava's, cfr. III,13216. He was called Mahendra, the Great Indra, after he had conquered and killed Vṛtra, as remarked in V,4562 (cfr. XII,438).

Indro Vṛtravadhenāiva  
 Mahendrah samapadyata  
 mähendram pragraham lebhe  
 lokānāñ cêçvaro 'bhavat.

Further he is named Devendra, Devānām deva, Devarāja, Sarvadeveça and Çakra. These seem to be the more frequently occurring names for this god. Regarding his many other names see below.

The Etymology of the word Indra is uncertain. The grammarian Vopadeva specifies, to be sure, a root *id* in the sense of equipping with great power, but this is perhaps only a grammatical root, as it is not to be found in literature. It is more probable that the word Indra originally has been Indura from *indu*, a drop, as it is sometimes in Rigveda to be read in three syllables, and as Indra is so often associated with rain and is designated as he who sends rain, f.i. I,1135. III,3991, 13217, 670. VI,431. I,1286, 2122. XII,8424.

na vavarṣa Sahasrāxas XIV,2857. I,8091.

yadi dvādaça varṣāṇi

na varṣisyati Vāsavaḥ XIV,2861. I,8091.

This feature of his nature has later been detached and made an independent deity under the name of Parjanya, see below.

The word Çakra comes from *çak*, to be strong, and signifies the Mighty.

Indra's wife, Indrāṇī (I,7351. III,1854), Mahendrāṇī (III,1672) is called Çacī (III,1854. XIII,6750) which is derived from the same root as Çakra, and therefore also means the Mighty. In IX,2763 it is related how Bhāradvāja's daughter, the beautiful Çrutāvati, submitted herself to great penances, in order to become the wife of Indra.

His beautiful and always victorious elephant who stands at the entrance to Svarga, is called Āirāvata (III,1676, 1753, 14321) or Āirāvata (XII,8221), and has 4 tusks. It resembles the mountain Kailāsa.

His horse Uccāihçravas (I,1094, 1190, 1223, 1235. VIII,249) came forth under the churning of the ocean, and is white with a black tail.

His chariot, ratha, is spoken of without name in III,1714. See follow. It is drawn by 10,000 (XIII,173 by 1000 white) reddish yellow horses (III,1720) as speedy as the wind. It scatters the dark clouds as it cleaves the sky and fills all quarters of the heavens with a din like the crash of thunderclouds. Swords, spears and clubs, flashing lightning and thunderbolts as well as most frightful serpents are on the chariot. When Arjuna began to think of it, it appeared at once.

Erect on his chariot stands his flagstaff, Vāijayanta, decorated with gold, bright dark blue and straight as a bamboo (III,1721).

His charioteer, sārathi, minister, mantrin, and friend, sakhi (III,1732. V,3044) is Mātali, who is Indra's equal in bravery. Mātali's wife is called Sudharmā (V,3519) and his daughter Guṇakeçī was famous for her beauty. When Mātali sought a bridegroom for her (V,3511) he found none suitable, neither among

Gods, Dāitya's, Gandharva's, Men or Rṣi's. He therefore, in the night, consulted his wife, and determined at last to make a journey to the world of the Nāga's, as he said to himself: possibly there may be found there a suitable husband for her. On the way there he met Nārada, and after they both had got leave of Varuṇa to visit the Nāga-world, they began to wander about in that world and at last found the beautiful Sumukha who then became the husband of Guṇakeçī (V,3673).

The weapons of Indra are as follows:

The thunderbolt, vajra, which Tvaṣṭar made from the bones of the Rṣi Dadhica (Agastya). It surpasses all other weapons, for with that he cleaves mountains and with that he struck off Vṛtra's head (V,4798).

The bow Vijaya (V,5354).

The trumpet, ṇāṅkha, by name Devadatta (III,12976).

His kingdom or world, Indraloka, Çakraloka (XIII,7111) is called Svar, Svargati, Svarloka, Div and Devaloka ॐ: the world of light and the shining gods (III,15442, 7038, 1708, 1749. I,263. VIII,1400). Svarga is most likely originally an adjective implying marga, road, therefore the road leading to Svarga, cfr. III,11163.

Devalokasya margo 'yam,

agamyo mānuṣāṅh sadā

ॐ: This is the way to Devaloka

which can never be trodden by man.

The entrance to Svarga is called Svargadvāra (III,7038), and at the gate stands Āirāvata (III,1753).

From the Himavat-mountains which are the most excellent in the world (XIII,1407) and which are extolled

as divine, holy and loved by the gods who seek these regions, they using them as pleasure-grounds (III, 1495, 11606); from these mountains of which Meru is the centre (see „Fire Forstudier“ p. 48) you ascend through the air to Svarga (III, 1727, 1744, 12032, 15442). From Mandara in this mountain-range Arjuna ascended to Indra's heaven conveyed there by Mātali in Indra's chariot, after he had first sung this beautiful hymn to the mountain: (III, 1735).

Sādhūnām puṇyaçīlānām  
munīnām puṇyakarmaṇām  
tvam sadā saṁçrayah çāila  
svargamārgābhikāñxiṇām,  
Tvatprasādāt sadā çāila  
brāhmaṇāḥ katriyā viçah  
svargam prāptāç caranti sma  
devāḥ saha gatavyathāḥ.  
Adrirāja mahāçāila  
munisaṁçraya tīrthavan  
gacchāmy-āmantrayitvā tvām  
sukham asmy-uṣitas tvayi,  
Tava sāmūni kuñjāç ca  
nadyah prasaravaṇāni ca  
tīrthāni ca supuṇyāni  
mayā drṣṭāny-anekaçah,  
Phalāni ca sugandhīni  
bhaxitāni tatas tatah  
susugandhāç ca vāryoghās  
tvaccharīravinihṛtāḥ  
Amṛtāsvādaniyā me  
pitāḥ prasaravaṇodakāḥ,  
çiçur yathā pitur aṅke

susukham vartate naga  
 Tathā tavāṅke lalitam  
 cāilarāja mayā prabho  
 apsarogaṇasaṅkirṇe  
 brahmāghoṣānunādite,  
 Sukham asmy-uṣitah cāila  
 tava sānuṣu nityadā.

- o: O mountain, thou art ever the refuge of holy, heaven-seeking Munis of virtuous conduct and behaviour. It is through thy grace, O mountain, that Brāhmanas and Kshatriyas and Vaiçyas attain heaven, and their anxieties gone, sport with the celestials! O king of mountains, O mountain, thou art the asylum of Munis, and thou holdest on thy breast numerous sacred shrines! Happily have I dwelt on thy heights! I leave thee now, bidding thee farewell! Oft have I seen thy table-lands and bowers, thy springs and brooks, and the sacred shrines on thy breast! I have also eaten the savoury fruits growing on thee, and have slaked my thirst with draughts of perfumed water oozing from thy body! I have also drunk the water of thy springs, sweet as Amrita itself. O mountain, as a child sleepeth happily on the lap of his father, so have I, O king of mountains, O exalted one, sported on thy breast echoing with the notes of Apsaras and the chaunting of the Vedas! O mountain, every day have I lived happily on thy table-lands! (Roy.)

What he then sees in the various heavenly regions is related in III.<sup>1745</sup> follow.

The grove in Svarga is called Nandana (III.<sup>1757</sup>, 12036, 15449).

Indra's city is called Amaravatī (III,1755). It has 1000 gates and an extent of 100 yojana's (I,3592). It is adorned with precious stones and yields all seasons' fruit. The sun does not scorch there, and neither heat nor cold nor fatigue torments people. Neither grief nor despondency nor weakness rules, nor anger nor covetousness. All are content (III,12036).

His assembly-hall, sabhā, is called Puskaramālinī (II,310). It is built by Çakra himself and can move at its own pleasure in any direction. It is 150 yojana's in length, 100 in breadth and 5 in height. It drives away the weakness of old age, fatigue and fear. Full of rooms and seats and ornamented with heavenly trees it is extremely beautiful. Here sits Çakra with his wife Çacī. He has a crown on his head, and a white screen is held over him (II,283. III,1772).

If you ask, who comes to Indra, there is particularly mentioned 3 classes of mankind: those who sacrifice, those who do penance, and those who behave like heroes in battle (II,498. III,1748, 1759. IX,3086. XI,61). In XIII,6632 all those are named who go to Svarga, svargagāminas.

Indra's special names. Beside the common names Indra and Çakra which seem to express the dignity and power of the god as the highest amongst the gods, we find in the Mahābhārata several other names that have a similar meaning. To these must be reckoned:

Tridaçādhīpa	Vajradhara	Vajrin
Tridivasya ekarāja	Vajrapāṇi	Surendra
Trāilokyapati	Vajrasya bhartar	Sureçvara
Marutvat	Vajrabhrt	



Whereas:

Sahasrāxi<sup>1</sup>, Sahasranetra and Vāsava

seem to refer to the light-world, the foundation for the whole Indra-myth.

Maghavan and Çatakratu, no doubt, belong to one another and refer to Indra having obtained his Indraship through sacrificing.

The other names express Indra's war with evil hostile powers, partly in a general way, but also especially as regards certain Asura's:

Dāitya-Dānava-han, -sūdana.	Namucer hantar
Purandara	Pākaçāsana
Surārihan	Prahlādahan
—	Vala-Vṛtra-han
Balanāçana	Çamvara-Pāka-han
Balahan.	

### The Deeds of Indra.

We have seen above that the Asura's and the Sura's were half-brothers, that they quarrelled about the Amṛta, and that this strife lasted for thousands of years. The Sura's with Indra at their head conquered at last by the help of Viṣṇu (III, 479) and Indra became Lord of the three worlds. Now commenced a happy time which is in III, 13216 described thus:

<sup>1</sup> While it is related in I, 1705 that Indra got 1000 big red eyes on his back, sides and in front when he, fascinated by Tilottamā's beauty, gazed on her as she walked round him and the other gods, it says on the contrary in XIII, 2328 that Gāutama had cursed Indra, because he could not control his passions, and had therefore caused 1000 sexual marks to appear on his body, which however he afterwards, from pity, permitted to disappear.

When that horrible conflict between the Gods and the Asuras was over, Indra became the ruler of the three worlds. The clouds showered rain copiously. And the dwellers of the world had abundance of harvests, and were excellent in disposition. And devoted to virtue, they always practised morality and enjoyed peace. And all persons, devoted to the duties of their respective orders, were perfectly happy and cheerful. And the slayer of Vala, beholding all the creatures of the world happy and cheerful, became himself filled with joy. And he of a hundred sacrifices, the chief of the gods, seated on the back of his elephant Āirāvata, surveyed his happy subjects. And he cast his eyes on delightful asylums of Rishis, on various auspicious rivers, towns full of prosperity, and villages and rural regions in the enjoyment of plenty. And he also cast his eyes upon kings devoted to the practice of virtue and well-skilled in ruling their subjects. And he also looked upon tanks and reservoirs and wells and lakes and smaller lakes all full of water and adored by best of Brāhmaṇas in the observance, besides, of various excellent vows. (Roy.)

Çrī came and dwelt with Indra (XII,8419). But prosperity made him arrogant. He abused his power and was guilty of heavy crimes (V,374). While he at an earlier period had shewn himself deserving by the invention of arms with which to chastise the Asura's (V,838) and by killing these both in numbers (XII,3660. III,12082 follow., 11909. II,941) as well as individually, further by freeing Tārakā, Vrihaspati's wife (II,939. VII,2994) and Puloma's daughter (X,599), he, on the other hand, seduced Ahalyā (V,373. XIII,2327), and de-

sired Ruci, Devaçarman's wife (XIII,2209). He killed Namuci although he had formed a friendship with him (IX,2435), and even was guilty of murdering the Brāhmaṇa Viçvarupa Triçiras. This last event is related in V,228, and abridged it reads thus:

Viçvarūpa Triçiras, Tvaṣṭar's threeheaded son practised penance in a high degree. Indra was afraid he would deprive him of his position, he therefore sent a lovely Apsaras to tempt him, but as this did not succeed, Indra slew him with his thunderbolt, and commanded a woodcutter to chop off his head. When Tvaṣṭar heard what had happened, his eyes reddened with rage, and he said: since Indra has killed my son who has done no harm but constantly been engaged in doing penance; I will create Vritra, and he created Vritra and commanded him to kill Indra. There now followed a long war between Vritra and Indra (cfr. XII,10104, 13211. XIV,398). References to this struggle are to be found in many places (see III,1608. VII,2992. VIII,4798). The gods have recourse to Viṣṇu who advises them to make peace, but Vritra will not consent to a reconciliation unless they promise him invulnerability against dry or wet, stone or wood, sword or javelin, by day and by night. Peace was made on these terms and both Vritra and Indra were satisfied. But it was nevertheless Indra's secret and constant wish to kill Vritra. So meeting him once on the sea-shore, he said to himself: now it is neither day nor night, now he can be killed by me, and seeing at the same time a quantity of froth on the sea, he said to himself: this is neither dry nor wet, neither is it a weapon; and he took the froth and cast it towards Vritra together with

the thunderbolt which Viṣṇu had entered, and thus did he kill Vṛitra. But shortly afterwards he became depressed in spirits and downhearted when he reflected on his own duplicity and the Brāhmaṇa-murder he had committed. He flew to the farthest corners of the earth, where he lived hidden in the stalk of a lotus in a lake. Then the earth became desolate, for it had no king. The forest withered. The rivers ceased to flow, and the animals perished for want of rain. Then gods and ṛṣis went to Nahuṣa and persuaded him to be king. But when N. had been crowned a king he also abandoned himself to sensual pleasures. And seeing one day the ravishing Çacī, Indra's wife, he desired her. Çacī asked Vṛhaspati to protect her. And Vṛhaspati said: thou shalt not be afraid, Indra will soon come back. But Nahuṣa defended his conduct and said: Indra violated Ahalyā, why did you not prevent that? Vṛhaspati then advised Çacī to ask for delay in satisfying his importunity. Çacī went and asked for postponement, „for no one knows what has become of Indra“, she said, and she succeeded in getting postponement. In the meantime the gods sought the advice of Viṣṇu, who said: let Indra perform a sacrifice of horses to me, then he will regain his position. And an offering of horses was accomplished, which freed Indra from his fear. His hiding place was discovered. Çacī besought him to return and kill the villain Nahuṣa. Then, when Nahuṣa, at the request of Çacī, to show his greatness and power caused ṛṣis to be harnessed to his chariot, and even set his foot on the holy Agastya's head, then his hour had come. By the help of the gods Indra came back and was again crowned king of the gods, while Nahuṣa was

cast down from heaven and thereafter for 10,000 years was compelled to wander about the world in the shape of a monster serpent.

The Namuci-myth (IX,<sup>3433</sup>) agrees in its principal features with the story of Vṛitra.

There are also many references to this myth in the Mahābhārata. Thus in II,<sup>1957</sup>. III,<sup>11904</sup>. VI,<sup>3678</sup>. VIII,<sup>4530</sup>.

Nahūṣa, see p. 90 under Vṛitra.

Prahrāda, see XII,<sup>4568</sup>, 8021.

Vali, see XII,<sup>8218</sup>. VII,<sup>4081</sup>.

Sarvakāmadughā, Indra's wishing cow.

Surabhi or Suravi, the divine, beautiful and gentle cow, mother of all cows, gavām mātā, daughter of Daxa prajāpati (I,<sup>3927</sup>. III,<sup>14486</sup>. XII,<sup>6492</sup>. XIII,<sup>7638</sup>, 3906). She lives in Rasātala, the 7<sup>th</sup> layer under the earth (V,<sup>3602</sup>), gives a milk in which is the strength of all the best things on earth, and becomes Svadhā, Sudhā and Amṛta for those that live on these drinks (V,<sup>3614</sup>). In XIII,<sup>3713</sup> it is said of Surabhi:

Śāsrjat sāurabheyīs tu

Surābhir lokamātrkāḥ

o: But she, Surabhi, created daughters

who became the mothers of the world.

According to V,<sup>3609</sup> four of her daughters are called: Surūpā, Hamsikā, Subhadrā and Sarvakāmadughā, who each bear separately the east, the south, the west and the north corners of the heavens. In I,<sup>2031</sup> Surabhi is said to have had two other daughters named Rohiṇī the happy, and the distinguished Gandharvī.

It is related in III.<sup>330</sup> foll. that Surabhi weeps because her sickly son is tormented by the ploughman with the goad.

As a reward for her great penitential exercises on mount Kāilāsa Brahmā bestowed immortality on her and a dwelling in Go-loka above Triloka, the three worlds. (XIII.<sup>9903</sup> foll.)

Surabhi's daughter by Kaçyapa is called Sarvakāmadughā or only Kāmadughā (VI.<sup>1232</sup>) or Kāmaduh, she who grants all wishes (I.<sup>3927</sup>) also Nandinī, the fascinating. She is the best of all wishing-cows. She is fat and gives abundance of sweet milk, and the mortal who drinks her milk will be for a thousand years like a strong youth. She has a beautiful neck and lovely hoofs, and she is furnished with all virtues. Varuṇa: Varuṇa's son Vaçiṣṭha obtained her as offering cow, homadhenu, but she was once stolen by Dyo (Dyāus) and as a punishment for his crime Dyo had to dwell for a long time on the Earth, in the world of mortals. According to III.<sup>2121</sup> Kāmadughā is Indra's wishingcow.

Parjanya. In order to arrive at a proper understanding of the fact that in India we meet with a distinct deity for the rainfall, we must first consider what is recorded not only from former times but up to the present day, both of the rain's power and violence and of its utility and blessing for the soil, when the land has been parched by the burning heat of the sun for three whole months.

The hot season begins in April and lasts till about the 20 June, by the end of that time man, animals, and vegetation languish. Concerning this read Kālidāsa's

masterly description of Grīṣma and Varsha in his *Ritusamhāra* and among modern authors Acland<sup>1</sup>) and others. At last when the heat is most powerful, dark clouds show themselves on the horizon, then there comes a few refreshing drops and finally the thunder clouds burst with furious and violent crashes raging with immense might. It seldom lasts more than one or two hours, but what a scene of destruction is to be seen here when it is over: uprooted trees and houses levelled with the ground. The hot season is followed by a rainy season in which the swollen rivers wash the trees from

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<sup>1</sup> Manners and Customs of India p. 17, 60, 50: there is something very grand, though awful in these furious tempest-bursts within the tropics. A few minutes back not a leaf rustled, now the trees are waving to and fro etc. In the night my wife was tossed out of bed. We were in the greatest danger of being drowned. Towards morning, however, the wind abated. The heat was excessive: not a breath of wind stirred the air. Pag. 122: How little is known in England of what a thunderstorm is! At this minute (about ten o'clock in the evening) the rain is pouring down in vast sheets of water rather than in drops. For the last two hours the lightning has not ceased for a minute at a time, whilst the thunder has continued incessantly, varied occasionally by a tremendous crash which bursts immediately above the house and shakes it to its very foundation. Add to this the roaring of the sea and the howling of the wind . . . at this station most of the European houses are blown down once in two or three years . . . I find that the depth of water which fell in the two hours and a half that the storm continued was one inch and a half, a quantity which in England, I believe, would not fall without many days of rain.

All small houses have been carried away by the flood and rain, and many people are houseless. This was in the neighbourhood of the great river Ganges. The water increased so much that only the tops of the trees were to be seen above the water. — We have 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to day. We are astonished at the great number of trees fallen. There is not a spot where the storm has not done great damage. Santhal Posten for November 1900.

the banks and carry them away with them on their violent course. In the Mahābhārata there are many references to these heavy storms and floods of rain.

Tatah kadācit tasyātha  
 vanasthasya samantatah  
 Pātayann iva vṛxāṁś tān  
 sumahān vātasambhramah,  
 meghasaṅkulam ākāṣaṁ  
 vidyunmaṇḍalamaṇḍitaṁ,  
 Sañchannas tu mubūrtena  
 nāusārthāir iva sāgarah,  
 vāridhārāsamūhena  
 sampravṛṣṭah Çatakratuh  
 xanena pūrayām āsa  
 salilena vasundharām,  
 tato dhārākule kūle  
 sambhraman naṣṭacetanah  
 çītārtas tad vanaṁ sarvaṁ  
 ākulenāntarātmanā  
 nāiva nimnaṁ sthalaṁ vāpi  
 so 'vindata vihaṅgaḥ,  
 pūrīto hi jalāughena  
 tasya mārgo, vanasya tu  
 paxiṇo varṣavegena  
 hatā līnās tadābhavan,  
 mṛgasimhavarāḥ ca  
 thalam āçritya çerate,  
 mahatā vātavarṣena  
 trāsītās te vanāukasah  
 bhayārtāç ca xudhārtāç ca  
 babhramuh sahitā vane. XII, 5477.



- o: Once while he was in the forest a violent whirlwind arose which nearly overthrew the trees on all sides. The atmosphere which was full of clouds, was ornamented by a circle of lightning. It was for an instant just like a sea covered with ships and caravans. Qatakratu who had begun to rain with a quantity of raindrops filled in an instant the earth with water. Thereupon, at that time, when everything was overfilled with water, running about all over the wood, distraught, suffering from cold, with bewildered senses that birdcatcher found neither lowland nor continent (where he might dwell), for his way was filled with water-courses. And the birds of the forest killed by the fury of the rain or dying, and deer, lions and boars, sought the mainland and lay down to rest frightened by the heavy storm and rain, and tortured by fear and hunger, they wandered about, all together in the wood.

Te samāsādyā Kāunteyam  
 āvṛṇvaṅ charavṛṣṭibhih  
 parvataṁ vāridhārābhih  
 prāvṛṣṭīva balāhakah. VII, 5685, 5247.

- o: They attacked Kuntī's son and covered him with a rain of arrows as the clouds in the rainy season (deluge) the mountain with floods of rain.

Parjanya denotes originally only the rain-cloud, for in this signification it is very often used as neuter, thus for instance in II, 1624:

Apramatto sthito nityaṁ  
 prajāḥ pāhi viçāmpate

parjanyaṃ iva bhūtāni  
mahādrumam iva dvijāh.

- o: Be always indefatigable,  
protect beings, o Prince,  
as the rain-cloud (benefits) the creatures  
as the birds (seek shelter) in the large tree.

But later the rain-cloud was personified, and  
Parjanya used in the sense of the Raingod, f. i.

Tatah sāyakavarṣeṇa  
Parjanya iva vṛṣṭimān  
parān avakīrat Pārthah  
parvatān iva nīradah. VII, 3153.

- o: Thereupon Pārtha overwhelmed the enemy with a  
rain of arrows, even as Parjanya followed by rain,  
(and) as the cloud (deluges) the mountains.

Pṛthivīm lāṅgalenēha  
bhittvā vījam vapaty-uta  
āste 'yaṃ karṣakah tuṣṇīm,  
Parjanyas tatra kāraṇam, III, 1248  
vṛṣṭiḥ cen nānugrhnīyād  
anenās tatra karṣakah. III, 1248.

- o: After having broken the earth with the plough-share  
the ploughman sows the seed, (thereupon) he sits  
in silence, the reason is that he waits for Parjanya,  
if the rain does not favour him, it is not his fault.

Of Parjanya it is said:

Samyag varṣati Parjanyah  
cāsyasampada uttamāh III, 13217, 10016. VII, 3153.

- o: Parjanya rained plentifully (and forwarded) the  
richest harvest.

In the list of Āditya's in XIX,<sup>11548</sup> and I,<sup>4824</sup><sup>1)</sup> Harivaṃṣa 13143 and in other places Parjanya is noted as an independent god equal to Indra.

But that Parjanya is originally identical with Indra seems to appear from XIV,<sup>3856-59</sup>, where it is said:

Tathā ty-anekāir munibhir  
mahantah kratavah kṛtāh  
evamvidhe tv-Agastyasya  
vartamāne tathādhvane  
Na vavarṣa Sahasrāxas,  
tadā Bharatasattama  
tatah karmāntare rājann  
Agastyasya mahātmanah  
kathēyam abhinirvṛttā  
muninām bhāvitātmanām:  
Agastyo yajamāno 'sāu  
dadāty-annam vimatsarah  
na ca varṣati Parjanya  
katham annam bhaviṣyati.

o: For thus great sacrifices were made, but when such an offering was likewise undertaken by Agastya, Indra did not rain. Thereupon during the sacrificial act this conversation took place between the holy monks: this A. who offers a sacrifice, gives food generously, still Parjanya raineth not, how then can there be food.

The absence of rain, as we well know, causes the great and constantly recurring famine in India even now.

<sup>1)</sup> In the last place P. is the 13<sup>th</sup>, although in the same place it is said that there are 12 Āditya's.

## 4. Varuṇa.

Varuṇa from var, to surround, means in all probability originally the heavenly sea of light which surrounds all things; Varuṇa is especially to be understood as referring to the light of the night, whilst Mittra, with whom Varuṇa is often combined, means the light of day. Such expressions as puttro Aditer and sitaprabhas may thus be explained.

Tato vāidūryavarṇabho  
bhāsayan sarvato diṇah  
yādogañavṛtah ṣṛīmān  
ājagāma Jaleṣvarah III, 1668.

- o: Therupon having the lazur stone's shining blue colour and surrounded by a host of aquatic animals, lighting up the heavens on all sides, the glorious lord of the waters appeared.

Puttro 'diter mahābhāgo  
Varuṇo vāi sitaprabhah IX, 2841.

- o: Aditi's son, the happy, Varuṇa with the white radiance.

And when Varuṇa and Mittra are combined, they seem to denote the highest radiance and glory.

bhrātus puttrān pradāsyāmi  
Mittra-Varuṇayos samān I, 4260. XIII, 7666.  
III, 8797.

- o: I will give my brother children who resemble Mittra and Varuṇa.

But in the Mahābhārata Varuṇa appears only as the God of the ocean, lakes and water courses under the following names: Apāmpati (V, 3527. IX, 7428), Jaleṣvara (XIII, 7245. VII, 8194), Jalādhipa (XIII, 7262),

Vāripa (XIII,7259), Udakapati (V,3531), Nadīpati (IX,2735), sarvāsām saritām pati (IX,2734), Yāda-sām bhartr (III,1670). As Lord of the waters he also rules over the Asura's. (XII,4499.) And according to IX,2733 he was unanimously appointed by the gods to this supremacy at the beginning of the Kṛtayuga.

His realm lies in the west (XIII,4666) and is rich and happy.

Pasyôdakapateh sthānam  
sarvato bhadram rddhimat V,3531.

and the ocean is his dwelling, sāgaro Varuṇālayo (V,5603. I,1210. IX,2731). In III,12079 follow. I,1207 follow. the ocean is described with its contents: nāga's, monsters, amṛta, vādava, precious stones etc. In XII, the salt-ness of the sea is explained. In V,3563 (cfr. 3539) there is mention of an egg deposited in the sea from which at the end of the world flames will burst forth and burn up the whole of the three worlds, triloka.

His city, pura, (XIII,7245) the most beautiful in the world, shines with many palaces, with Apsaras'es and divine pleasures.

His palace, bhavana, is entirely of gold (V,3535), and there he has a sunshade, chattra, from which cooling waters drip (V,3544).

Varuṇa has (II,359 follow.) an incomparably resplendent assembly-hall, sabhā, with walls and gates. It was built by Viçvakarman in the midst of the waters, and it is furnished with divine trees which consist of pearls and produce fruit and flowers of all colours. Bushes with lovely singing birds are there to be found. In this hall Varuṇa sits with his wife, surrounded by Nāga's, Dāitya's, Dānava's and many other beings.

In III,<sup>1691</sup> Varuṇa is described as being dark blue like the cloud, jaladharaṣyāma.

His wife's name is Siddhi (XII,<sup>11095</sup>) or Gāurī<sup>1</sup> (XIII,<sup>6751, 7637</sup>) or Vāruṇī<sup>2</sup> (II,<sup>358</sup>).

His son, Puṣkara (V,<sup>3533</sup>, is married to Soma's daughter Jyotsnākālī, and the connection between Varuṇa and Soma is in IX,<sup>2735</sup> expressed thus:

Samudro 'yaṁ tava vaçe  
bhaviṣyati nadīpatih,  
Somena sārḍhaṁ ca tava  
hānivrddhī bhaviṣyatah.

o: This sea, lord of the rivers, will submit to thee, and as well as for Soma will there also for thee be flow and ebb.

His minister, mantrin, is called Sunābha (II,<sup>380</sup>).

Like Yama, Varuṇa has a noose, he is pāçavat. (VI,<sup>3136</sup>), dharmapāçadhara (II,<sup>369</sup>). See further XII,<sup>8301, 8323, 3554</sup>. III,<sup>1693</sup>.

And he has a trumpet, ṣaṅkha, which Viçvakarman skilfully had fashioned from a thousand goldcoins (II,<sup>1922</sup>).

### The Deeds of Varuṇa.

Soma deemed the brāhmaṇa Utathya to be a suitable husband for his exceedingly beautiful daughter, and in the course of time Soma's father Atri, invited Utathya to his house, and presented him with the girl. But

<sup>1</sup> The wife of Çiva is also called Gāurī.

<sup>2</sup> Roy understands Vāruṇī here as the queen of Varuṇa. But according to Rāmāyaṇa I,<sup>45</sup>, 56 (Bombay Edition) Varuṇī is Varuṇasya kanyā, Varuṇa's daughter.

it became known that the handsome Varuṇa had long desired her and coming one fine day to the forest where Utathya lived he stole her after she had gone into the water to bathe, and he brought her home to his own palace and amused himself with her there. But when Utathya heard of this he said to Nārada: go to Varuṇa and say that he must give me back my wife. Nārada went, but Varuṇa refused to comply with his request. Then Utathya became inflamed with rage, and on the strength of the number of his sacrifices, he drank up all the waters (cfr. Agastya III,<sup>8797</sup>). Then Varuṇa became faint-hearted and his relatives and friends likewise. Still he would not restore the wife of Utathya. Then Utathya commanded the Earth: let there be land where before there were 600,000 lakes, and the earth became arid there. And to the rivers he said: o river disappear in the desert. When thus the region had become waste, Varuṇa took at last Utathya's wife with him and delivered her to Nārada. And when Utathya received his wife he was again happy, and released the world and Varuṇa from their grief (XIII,<sup>7240</sup> follow.).

### 5. Viṣṇu.

If we abide by the elder part of the myth of Viṣṇu, and as far as possible leave all that respecting Kṛṣṇa out of the question, the latter clearly showing itself to be a newer addition or retouching of the subject, we shall find that, after Viṣṇu the names Nārāyaṇa and Hari are those which most frequently occur in the Mahābhārata. When he sometimes is also called Devadeva, the God of the gods, this is only an appellation through which his worshippers wish to increase

his reputation. Respecting his many other names see below.

He is one of the Āditya's. In V,<sub>3503</sub> we read:

Ādityānām hi sarveṣām  
Viṣṇur ekah sanātanah  
ajayaç cāvyayaç cāiva  
çāçvatah prabhur içvarah.

- o: For of all the Āditya's Viṣṇu alone is enduring, unconquerable and imperishable, the everlasting and mighty lord.

And he was the youngest of them (I,<sub>2600</sub>). In Rig-veda Viṣṇu is often mentioned together with Indra, and in the Mahābhārata V,<sub>3759</sub>. III,<sub>489</sub> he is called Vāsava's (Indra's) younger brother Vāsavāvaraja.

His dwelling is on the top of Mount Mandara (V,<sub>289</sub>, cfr. I,<sub>1112</sub> and the churning of the ocean) to the east of Meru (III,<sub>11860</sub>) and to the north of Milk-Sea (VI,<sub>300</sub>).

Brahmanah sadanād ūrdhvaṁ  
tad Viṣṇoh paramaṁ padaṁ  
çuddhaṁ sanātanam jyotiḥ

Parambrahmēti yaṁ viduḥ (III,<sub>1548</sub>, cfr. XI,<sub>358</sub>).

- o: Higher than Brahmā's seat is that Viṣṇu's highest place, the pure, the everlasting light which they call Parambrahma.

Na tatra vipra gacchanti  
puruṣā viṣayātmakāḥ  
dambhalobhamahākrodha-  
mohadrohair abhidrutāḥ,  
nirmamā nirahaṅkāṛā  
nirdvandvāḥ saṁyatendriyāḥ



dhyānayogaparāṣ cāiva

tatra gacchanti mānavāh (III,15483).

- o: There they who are ensnared by sensual things come not (neither) they who are governed by deceit, covetousness, anger, stupidity and violence. But thither go they who are unselfish, without egotism, without doubt, with controlled senses, they who are absorbed in contemplation and devotion.

Even Brahmarṣi's and Maharṣi's come not there, but only Yati's, that is to say, such as have mastered their passions (III,11801-63).

His person. He has Lotus eyes, padmalocana (I,1117). According to III,15933. XIII,6964. 6891 he has four arms, he is caturbhujā. On his breast he has a mark, çrīvatsa (III,1096) therefore he is called çrīvatsavaxas (III,7013) salaxaṇoraska (MBh. Calc. vol. 3 p. 833 at the top) and çrīvatsāṅka (I,2507. VI,2993. XIII,6808). He received this mark, when the great sage Bhara-dvājā threw water on him because he disturbed him while at prayer. On his breast he wears the divine jewel Kāustubha (I,1147. VI,2993) which came forth from the churning of the ocean (see above). A lotus sprang from his navel when he lay in contemplation, and in that Brahmā with the four faces (III,15820) appeared. Therefore Viṣṇu is often called Padmanābha, having a lotus navel (I,1218, 2606. VI,9293. XIII,6870, 6988. According to Kālidāsa's Meghadūta 57 he has a blue foot. His raiment is yellow, pītavāsas (I,2506).

His couch or bed is the serpent Çeṣa or Ananta (I,1118), who holds the earth at Brahmā's command

(I,1581), and on which Viṣṇu rests in Yoga-sleep (III,13557. XII,13514); cfr. *infra*.

He has a golden chariot with 8 wheels, which is as quick as thought:

Xīrodasya samudrasya  
Tathāivōttarataḥ prabhuh  
Harir vasati Vāikuṇṭhah  
çakate kanakāmaye.  
Aṣṭacakram hi tad yānam  
bhūtayuktaṁ manojavaṁ  
agnivaṛṇaṁ etc. (VI,300).

o: And to the north of the Milky ocean dwells the lord Hari Vāikuṇṭha on a chariot of gold, eight wheels has his chariot, it is harnessed with demons, it is quick as thought and has the colour of fire.

His sign or standard is the bird Garuḍa (XIII,6820. I,1510); cfr. *supra*.

Viṣṇu's weapons are: first a çāṅkha, a war trumpet, cfr. VII,9024, then a cakra, a discus called Sudarçana (I,1178. 1186) and further a gadā a club (VI,2986. XIII,596), and he is therefore called çāṅkhacakra-gadādhara; cakreṇa nihatā Dāityāḥ, with the cakra the Dāitya's are killed (I,1177. 1186. XIII,6015). Besides these he carries a bow called Çārṅga (VI,2937), after which he is named Çārṅgadhanurdhara (VI,2937). When Nārāyaṇa astra is spoken of in VII,9018. 9209 etc. and Vāiṣṇava astra in VII,1272, Viṣṇu's bow is probably meant.

Viṣṇu's wife is Laxmī who came forth during the churning of the ocean (I,1146). She is also called Çrī.

and is the Goddess of Fortune and Beauty. In XII,<sup>8155</sup> is said: They call me Bhūti, Laxmī, Ārī, thus also in <sup>8354</sup>; likewise Padmā in <sup>8353</sup>, wise men call her Duḥsahā, difficult to bear. In XIII,<sup>507</sup> follow. people with whom Ārī dwells are spoken of

Nāiva devo na gandharva  
nāsuro na ca rāxasah  
yo mām eko visahitum  
çaktah kaçcit purandara (XII,<sup>8164</sup>).

- o: Neither is there any god whatsoever, or gandharva to be found, or asura, or rāxasa, not one who is able to bear me, o Purandara.

In XIII,<sup>3861</sup> it says:

Adhruvā capalā ca tvam  
sāmānyā bahubhih saha.

- o: Inconstant and capricious art thou and associatest with many.

According to XII,<sup>8252</sup> a lotus sprang from Viṣṇu's forehead, and out of that came Ārī who became one of the wives of Dharma o: Yama (I,<sup>2579</sup>).

Observe a conversation between Ārī and Çakra in XII,<sup>8335</sup> follow.

Viṣṇu's names. Viṣṇu has like Çiva many names. In XIII,<sup>6939</sup> we read:

Jagatprabhum Devadevam  
anantam puruṣottamam  
stuvan nāmasahasreṇa  
puruṣah satatottithah . . . bhavet.

- o: To praise with a thousand names the Ruler of the world, the God of gods the infinite highest being one must always be ready.

And in XIII,<sup>6949</sup> follow. his thousand names are enumerated. An Indian explanation of some of these we have in V,<sup>2560</sup> follow. XII,<sup>13131</sup>, but that we cannot rely upon it, may be seen at once from the interpretation that is given of the word Viṣṇu which is derived from the root vṛh, to grow, from which we have vṛhat, great. It is said there namely:

Vṛhatvād Viṣṇur ucyate

o: on account of his greatness he is called Viṣṇu.

An equally fantastic explanation of the predicate sanātana is to be found in XII,<sup>7630</sup>. Monier Williams translates the word Viṣṇu by all pervading, as he thinks it comes from viṣ or viç, to pervade. Grassmann is of the same opinion. Lassen, on the contrary, solves it vi-snu from vi, tueri.

Whether all these names may be classed under certain definite headings, I cannot say, I will leave it to others to make the attempt. But it appears to me, that when it already is the case with most of the god-forms in the Rigveda that they melt into one another and are destitute of any defined and limited character, then this must still more be the case regarding a divinity like Viṣṇu to whom a thousand names are ascribed. For if the names are to be nāmāni gāuṇāni (XIII,<sup>6948</sup>) that is to say, containing definite qualities, and the names are numberless, it is easily seen that the god-forms evaporate through the multiplicity of the names. Most of these, therefore, do not mean any real quality appertaining to the said god, but are merely bestowed upon him to increase his reputation. His followers have wished to prove his greatness by ascribing to him a

number of names, but 'have demonstrated too much and therefore proved nothing.

We must here in addition remark that Viṣṇu in the eyes of his worshippers assumes the character of Brahma, in the same way as Īiva does in the eyes of his followers. See XII.<sup>10030</sup> follow. VI.<sup>1216</sup> follow.

I can only discover two more prominent phases of Viṣṇu's character, viz. his yoga, devotion, and his power of salvation.

Yoga means union and is derived from yuj (yuñj) = the latin jungere, but it is difficult to find a corresponding expression for it when used in a religious sense about the amalgamation, fusion and oneness with the divinity which takes place during contemplation, devotion and resignation. The definition given in Pātañjalam Yogasūtram is as follows: *yogaḥ cittavṛttinirodhas*, ॐ: suppression of the working of thought. B. & R. and Mitra translate it thus: yoga is the suppression of the functions of the thinking principle.

There are not a few places in the Mahābhārata where Yoga is treated of and Viṣṇu in connection with yoga. Thus in III.<sup>17120</sup>. XII.<sup>7129</sup>, 8769, 8661, 10240, 12163. 13513 etc. In III.<sup>13555</sup> it says:

Ekārṇave tathā loke  
naṣṭe sthāvarajaṅgame  
pranaṣṭeṣu ca bhūteṣu  
sarveṣu Bharatarṣabha  
Prabhavam lokakartāram  
Viṣṇum cācvaṭam avyayam  
yam āhur munayah siddhāh  
sarvaloka-maheṣvaram

Susvāpa Bhagavān Viṣṇur  
 apsu yogata eva sah  
 nāgasya bhoge mahati  
 Çeṣasyāmitatejasah,  
 Lokakartā mahābhāga  
 Bhagavān acyuto Hariḥ  
 nāgabhogena mahatā  
 parirabhya mahīm imām,  
 Svapatas tasya devasya  
 Padmaṁ sūryasamaprabhaṁ  
 nābhyām viniḥṣṭaṁ divyaṁ,  
 tatrotpannah pitāmahah  
 Sāxāl lokagurur Brahmā  
 padme sūryasamaprabhe  
 caturvedaç caturmūrtis  
 tathāiva ca caturmukhah.

- o: When thus the world had become one ocean and all fixed and moveable things had been destroyed, and all beings had perished, then that great Viṣṇu slept on the water, he whom the blessed Muni's call the beginning, the creator of the world, the everlasting, imperishable Viṣṇu, the whole world's great lord, sunk in yoga (resting) on the serpent's, the glorious Çeṣa's coil, the exalted Viṣṇu slept, the creator of the world, the sublime Hari lay motionless, encircling this world with his great serpent coil. While the god slept a divine lotus sprang from his navel, this lotus shone like the sun, and in this sunlike lotus rose at once (the world's) grand-father and master Brahmā with the 4 Veda's, and having four shapes and 4 faces.

He is therefore called Yogin (VI,<sup>2992</sup>. XII,<sup>11907</sup>. 7636), Mahāyogin (XII,<sup>7630</sup>, <sup>13540</sup>) and Yogamāya (XIII,<sup>6823</sup>).

His upholding and salvation power shows itself in his incarnations (embodiments). In XII,<sup>13666</sup> it says:

Jātā hīyaṁ vasumatī  
 bhārākrāntā tapasvinī.  
 Bahavo balinah pṛthvyāṁ  
 Dāitya-Dānava-Rāxasāḥ  
 bhaviṣyanti, tapoyuktā  
 varān prāpsyanti cōttamān,  
 Ayaṇyam eva tāih sarvāir  
 varadānena darpitāih  
 bādhitavyāḥ suraganā  
 ṛṣayaḥ ca tapodhanāḥ,  
 Tatra nyāyyam idaṁ kartum  
 bhārāvatarāṇaṁ mayā  
 atha nānāsamudbhūtāir  
 vasudhāyaṁ yathākramaṁ;  
 Nigraheṇa ca pāpānāṁ  
 sādḥūnāṁ pragraheṇa ca  
 iyaṁ tapasvinī satyā  
 dhārayisyati medinī,  
 Mayā by-eṣā hi dhriyati  
 pātālasthena bhoginā,  
 mayā dhṛtā dhārayati  
 jagad viçvaṁ carācaram,  
 Tasmāt pṛthvyāḥ paritrāṇaṁ  
 kariṣve sambhavaṁ gataḥ,  
 evaṁ sañcintayitvā tu  
 Bhagavān Madhusūdanah

Rūpāny-anekāny-aṣṛjat  
 prādurbhāve bhavāya sah  
 vārāhaṁ nārasimhaṁ ca  
 vāmanam mānuṣyam tathā.

- ॐ: This earth has been overwhelmed by burdens and is suffering, many and strong will the Dāitya's, Dānava's and Rāxasa's become on the earth, and applying themselves to penances they will receive very great rewards; by all these, who will be proud of that giving of gifts, it will be a matter of course that crowds of Sura's should be suppressed, and likewise sages rich in penitence; it is therefore only right that I should remove these burdens through and by the help of different beings who shall come into existence upon earth in succession; both by restraining the bad and by protecting the good shall this suffering and honest earth endure; by me in the shape of a serpent from the infernal regions shall it be upheld, and it (again) will support all creation, movable and immovable, therefore will I enter into existence and save the world; thinking thus the high Madhusūdana created some forms for the purpose of revealing himself, such as a boar, a man-lion, a dwarf and a man.

I have only found one place which seems to confirm the current tradition of Brahmā as Creator, of Viṣṇu as Upholder and of Śiva as Destroyer, viz. III,<sup>15824</sup>, which reads as follows:

Sṛjati Brahmamūrtis tu,  
 raxate pāuruṣī tanuh.



Rāudrībhāvena çamayet,  
tisro 'vasthāh Prajāpateh.

- o: In the form of Brahmā he creates,  
in the form of Puruṣa he preserves  
in the form of Rudra he destroys  
(these are) Prajāpati's three functions.

Of Viṣṇu's Avatāra's (descents) i. e. incarnations (embodiments) which in Sanskrit literature occur in different numbers, we mention the following treated of in the Mahābhārata.

1. As a Dwarf, vāmana, or Viṣṇu's threestrides. In III,<sup>15838</sup> we read the following story<sup>1</sup>:

Evam nihatya Bhagavān  
Dāityendram ripughātinam  
bhūyo 'nyah puṇḍarikākṣah  
prabhur lokahitāya ca  
Kaçyapasyātmajah çrīmān  
Adityā garbhadhāritah,  
pūrṇe varṣasahasre tu  
prasūtā garbham uttamam,  
Durdināmbhodasadrço  
dīptāxo Vāmanākṛtiḥ  
daṇḍi kamaṇḍaludharah  
çrīvatsorasi bhūṣitah,  
Jāti yajñopavitī ca  
Bhagavān bālarūpadhrk,  
yajñāvātaṁ gataḥ çrīmān  
Dānavendrasya vāi tadā

<sup>1</sup> The germs of this and the following incarnation are already to be found in the Rigveda, see Macdonell in the Journal of the R. A. Soc. 1895 p. 165.

Vṛhaspati-sahāyo 'sāu  
 praviṣṭo Valino makhe,  
 taṁ dṛṣṭvā Vāmanatanuṁ  
 prahṛṣṭo Valir abravīt:  
 Pṛṣṭo 'smi darṣane vipra,  
 brūhi tvaṁ kiṁ dadāni te;  
 evaṁ uktas tu Valinā  
 Vāmanah pratyuvāca ha,  
 Svastīty-uktvā Valiṁ devah  
 smayamāno 'bhyabhāṣata:  
 medinīm Dānavapate  
 dehi me vikramatrayaṁ,  
 Valir dadāu prasannātmā  
 viprāyāmitatejase,  
 tato divyādbhutatamaṁ  
 rūpaṁ vikramaṭo Hareh  
 Vikramāis tribhir axobhyo  
 jahārāṇu sa medinīm  
 dadāu Ṣaṅkṛāya ca mahīm  
 Viṣṇur devah sanātanah,  
 Eṣa te Vāmano nāma  
 prādurbhāvah prakīrtitah.

- ॐ: Having thus slain the enemy-killer, the chief of the Dāitya's, the lotus-eyed lord, happily for the world, was again conceived as Kaṣyapa's beautiful son in Aditi's womb, but when a thousand years had passed away she bore the most supreme foster who was like the cloud on a rainy day, had shining eyes; was in the shape of a dwarf, bore staff and a jar, and whose breast was ornamented with the ṣrīvatsa-mark, he had matted hair, and was of the height of a boy, he carried a sacrificial cord.

The glorious one went straight to the Dānava's place of sacrifice, accompanied by Vṛhaspati he stepped into the midst of the sacrificial congregation, seeing him in the shape of a dwarf Vali said glad: I am pleased to see thee Brāhmaṇa, what shall I give thee? Spoken to thus by Vali the dwarf answered, and after having said all hail, the god turned smilingly to Vali and said: o Dānava-prince, give me 3 feet of ground. Vali gladly gave the incomparable Brāhmaṇa (what he asked for). Thereupon at the same time Hari displaying his divine and most marvellous form firmly took the whole earth in 3 hasty strides, and the eternal Viṣṇu gave it to Çakra (Indra). This is the famous revelation, called the Dwarf's, that has been told thee.

This story is referred to in V.<sup>396</sup> where it says:

Ūcuç ca sarvadeveçam  
Viṣṇum Vṛtrabhayārditāh  
trayo lokās tvayā krāntās  
tribir vikramaṇāih purā,

and in III.<sup>13501</sup>:

Devānām mānuṣānām ca  
sarvabhūtasukhāvahah,  
tribhir vikramaṇair deva  
trayo lokās tvayā hṛtāh.

He is therefore also named Trivikrama (XIII.<sup>6892</sup>, 7742).

2. As a Boar, varāha. In III.<sup>15326</sup> we read as follows:

Jalena samanuprāpte  
sarvatah pṛthivītale

tadā cāikarṇave tasminn  
 ekākāṇḍe prabhuḥ caran  
 Niṣāyām iva khadyotah  
 prāvṛṭkāle samantatah  
 pratiṣṭhānāya pṛthivīm  
 mārgamāṇas tadābhavat,  
 Jale nimagnām gām dṛṣṭvā  
 cōddharitum manasēcchati  
 kin nu rūpam ahaṁ kṛtvā  
 salilād uddhare mahim  
 Evaṁ saṁcintya manasā  
 dṛṣṭvā divyena caxuṣā  
 jalakṛīḍābhirucitam  
 varāhaṁ rūpam asmarat,  
 Kṛtvā varāhavapuṣaṁ  
 vāṇmayam vedasammitam  
 daṇḍaḥ paṇḍitaḥ  
 āyataṁ ṇḍaḥ paṇḍitaṁ  
 Mahāparvatavarṣmābham  
 tīkṣṇadamstraṁ pradīptimat  
 mahāmeghāughanirghoṣam  
 nilajīmūtasannibham  
 Bhūtvā yajñavarāho vai  
 apah saṁpraviṣat prabhuh,  
 daṁṣṭrenāikena cōddhṛtya  
 sve sthāne nyaviṣan mahim

- o: When all the surface of the earth was flooded with water then the Lord, as he wandered about in this entire sea and in this air, like a firefly in the night in the rainy season, sought everywhere (for a place) to fix the earth upon, and when he saw the earth under water and secretly wished to save it, (the

said to himself:) what shape shall I assume to save the earth from the waters, as he thus turned the matter over in his mind and saw with his divine eyes, he thought of the shape of a boar which animal loves to play in the water, and when he had given himself a boar's body that could speak and which agreed with the traditions of the Veda's, ten yojana's broad and a hundred yojana's long, resembling a great mountain in shape, shining with sharp tusks, thundering like a mass of clouds, and resembling a dark cloud, then the Lord descended like an offering-boar into the water, drew the earth up with one of his tusks and set it back in its place.

This is often referred to, f. i. I, 1216. III, 10927, 10959. XII, 7617, 7638. In XIII, 6016 it is said that he, in the form of a boar, slew Hiranyāxa

Vārābām rūpam āsthāya  
Hiranyāxo nipātitaḥ.

3. As Man-lion, nṛ- and narasiṃha. See III, 15893:

Punar eva mahābāhur  
apūrvam tanum ācṛitaḥ,  
narasya kṛtvārdhatanum  
siṃhasyārdhatanum prabhuh  
Dāityendrasya sabbhām gatvā (gataḥ?)  
pāṇim saṃspr̥ṣya pāṇinā  
Dāityānām ādipurūṣaḥ  
surārir Ditinandanaḥ  
Dr̥ṣṭvā cāpūrvavapuṣam  
krodhat saṃraktalocanaḥ  
cūlodyatakarah sragvī  
Hiranyakaṣipuṣ tadā

Meghastanitanirghoṣo  
 nīlābracayasannibhah  
 devārīr Ditiḥ vīro  
 Nṛsimhaṁ samupādavat,  
 Samupetya tatas tīxṇāir  
 mṛgendreṇa baliyasā  
 nārasimbena vapuṣā  
 dāritah karajāir bhṛgaṁ. (Cfr. XII,<sup>13210</sup>.)

- o: On another occasion the strong-armed one assumed a hitherto unknown shape; after having formed the one half of his body like a man and the other half like a lion the Lord went to the chief of the Dāitya's assemblage, and when the chief of the Dāitya's, the foe of the Sura's, and the son of Diti, Hiranyakaśipu had rubbed one hand against the other, and his eyes met a hitherto unknown body he ran with eyes fired with anger, with a trident in his upraised hand and wearing a wreath, rumbling like a thunder cloud and resembling a collection of dark blue clouds, he the enemy of the gods, Diti's son, the hero, ran towards the Man-lion, and when they then collided he was torn to pieces by the sharp claws of the powerful king of beasts in the shape of a man-lion.

4. As a Horse's Head, hayaçiras. See XII,<sup>13478</sup>.

... atha tāu Dānavaçresthāu  
 Vedān grhya sanātānān  
 rasām viviçatus tūrṇam  
 udakpūrve mahodadhāu,  
 tato hr̥teṣu Vedeṣu  
 Brahmā kaçmalam āviçat,

tato vacanam Īcānam  
prāha Vedair vinākṛtah:

Brahmôvāca: Vedā me paramaṁ caxur  
Vedā me paramaṁ balam  
Vedā me paramaṁ dhāma  
Vedā me Brahma cōttarmaṁ,  
Mama Vedā hṛtāḥ sarve  
Dānavābhyāṁ balārditah,  
andhakārā hi me lokā  
jātā Vedāir vinākṛtāḥ,  
Vedān ṛte hi kim kuryām,  
lokānām sṛṣṭim uttamām,  
aho vata mahad dukkham  
Vedanāçanajaṁ mama  
Prāptaṁ dunoti hṛdayaṁ  
tīvraṁ, çokaparāyaṇaṁ,  
ko hi çokārṇave magnaṁ  
mām ito 'dya samuddharet  
Vedāṁs tāṁç cānayaṇ naṣṭān  
kasya cāhaṁ priyo bhava,  
ity-evam bhāṣamānasya  
brahmaṇo nṛpasattama  
Hares stotrārtham udbhūtā  
buddhir buddhimatām vara,  
tato jagāu paraṁ japyāṁ  
prāñjalipragrahaḥ prabhuh:

Brāhmôvāca: [Om] namas te Brahmahṛdaya  
namas te mama pūrvaja  
lokādya bhuvanaçṛṣṭha — — —  
Te me Vedā hṛtāç caxur,  
andho jāto 'smi jāgṛhi,  
dadasva caxūṁṣi mama

priyo 'haṁ te priyo 'si me,  
 Evaṁ stutah sa Bhagavān  
 puruṣah sarvatomukhah  
 jahāu nidrām atha, tadā  
 vedakāryārtham udyatah  
 Āiçvaryaṇa prayogaṇa  
 dvitīyān tanum āsthitaḥ,  
 sunāsikena kāyena  
 bhūtvā candraprabhas tadā  
 Kṛtvā hayaçirah çubhram  
 Vedānām ālayah prabhuh,  
 Etad dhayaçirah kṛtvā  
 nānāmūrtibhir āvṛtaṁ  
 antardadhāu sa viçveço  
 viveça ca rasām prabhuh — — —  
 Etasmim antare rājan  
 devo hayaçirodharah  
 jagrāha Vedān akhilān  
 rasātalagato Hariḥ  
 Prādāc ca Brahmaṇe bhūyas,  
 tataḥ svām prakṛtiṁ gataḥ  
 sthāpayitvā hayaçira  
 udakpūrve mahodadbhāu ...  
 Atha yudham samabhavat  
 taylor Nārāyaṇasya vāi,  
 rajastamoviṣṭatanū  
 tāv ubhāu Madhu-Kāitabhāu  
 Brahmaṇo 'pacitiṁ kurvan  
 jaghāna Madhusūdanah.

- o: Thereupon those two most exalted among the  
 Dānava's took the eterual Veda's and stepped  
 quickly into the water in the north-east sea; when



thus the Veda's were stolen sorrow took possession of Brahmā, and robbed of the Veda's he spoke as follows to Īcāna (Viṣṇu): The Veda's are my best eyes, the Veda's are my best strength, the Veda's are my best abode, the Veda's are for me the best Brahma, all my Veda's are stolen from me by the two Dānava's, my strength is gone, the worlds have become dark to me without the Veda's, (without) the Veda's which are the best creation in the world, certainly great anguish which arises from the loss of the Veda's torments my heart, a sharp (pain) full of sorrow; who will save me who is plunged in a sea of sorrow, and bring the lost Veda's back again and to whom am I endeared; while Brahmā spoke thus, o most exalted of princes, it occurred to him that he had better extol Hari, and trying with folded hands to win his favour, the Lord uttered the following prayer. Praise be to thee, o thou heart of Brahmā, honour to thee, who art born before me, o thou who art the first born of the world, the best of existence... those my Veda's which are my eyes, are stolen, I have become blind, wake up, give me my eyes, I am dear to thee, and thou art dear to me; being thus praised that high being with faces on all sides awoke, and in order to regain the Veda's he, using power and exertion, assumed another form; after having obtained a body with a handsome nose, he shone like the moon, and when he had fashioned himself a shining horse's head then the Lord was the habitation of the Veda's... After having made himself this horse's head which was hidden in different shapes, the al-

mighty one disappeared and the Lord stepped into the water... In the meanwhile the god with the horse's head, yon Hari, who had gone down to the bottom of the sea, seized all the Veda's and restored them to Brahmā, thereupon he again assumed his proper shape after having deposited the horse's head in the north-east sea. — Thereupon a struggle took place between those two (Asura's) and Nārāyaṇa, and both of them, Madhu and Kāiṭabha, who had a body ensnared in passion and darkness, were killed by Madhusūdana in honour of Brahmā.

5. As Kṛṣṇa. In III,<sup>15848</sup> it is said:

Asatām nigrahārthāya  
dharmasamraksanāya ca  
avatīrṇo manusyānām  
ajāyata Yadu-xaye,  
Sa eṣa Bhagavān Viṣṇuh  
Kṛṣṇêti parikīrtiyate.

o: Te restrain evil people and to take care of dharma, descended to mankind, he was born in the family of the Yadu's; that high Viṣṇu is extolled under the name of Kṛṣṇa.

The details in the story of Kṛṣṇa must be looked for in the Harivaṃśa and in the Bhāgavata-Purāṇa and other later works. The myth of Kṛṣṇa's hast at last overgrown the Viṣṇu-myth, in spite of Kṛṣṇa's divinity being early disputed, see Qiṣupālavadhaparvan in the Mahābh. II,<sup>1418</sup>.

The Açvaçiras-incarnation and the Kṛṣṇa-incarnation, occurring in the Mahābhārata, do not belong

to the usual 10 Incarnations of Viṣṇu, and of these the Matsya-incarnation is in the MBh. referred to Brahmā, and the Kūrma-incarnation (I,<sup>1122</sup>) has no connection with Viṣṇu.

### Viṣṇu's heroic Deeds.

Viṣṇu's incarnations and his exploits stand in close connection with one another. We first mention in a general sense that he wars with the Asura's either alone

Prāpnotv-āmitavīryaṇir  
adya Pārtho vasundharāṁ  
etām purā Viṣṇur iva  
hatvā Dāiteya-Dānavān VIII,<sup>3690</sup>.  
III,<sup>5018</sup>. V,<sup>299</sup>. VIII,<sup>2865</sup>.

o: Let the very mighty and glorious Pṛthā's son win the earth to-day like Viṣṇu of yore after having killed the Dāitya's and the Dānava's; or in connection with Indra (II,<sup>939</sup>), Viṣṇu going into the thunderbolt of Indra (XII,<sup>10128</sup>, <sup>10153</sup>). He is therefore called. Asurasūdāna (V,<sup>299</sup>).

But individual Asura's killed by him are also named separately. We have already seen under his incarnations how he kills Vali (cfr. Meghadūta 57), Hiranyāxa, Hiranyakaṣipu, Madhu and Kāṭabha (IX,<sup>3850</sup>). Furthermore Naraka is mentioned (III,<sup>10910</sup>) who desired Indra's position (VII,<sup>7879</sup>), Maya, and (III,<sup>8760</sup>) Jambha, the great bowman who disturbed the sacrifices.

## B. Apsaras'es. Gandharva's. Cāraṇa's.

a. Apsaras'es are the gods' female dancers, clever in dancing and singing (II,<sup>394</sup>). They are described as being uncommonly beautiful, with lotus eyes, slender waists and swelling hips. By ravishing postures, roguish and sweet conversation they rob the spectator of thought and intellect. They deck heroes with wreaths and precious stones (VIII,<sup>2853</sup>, 4640). In heaven they serve Qakra.

Etāṣ cānyāṣ ca nanṛtus  
tatra tatra sahasraṇaḥ  
cittaprasādane yuktāḥ  
Siddhānām padmalocanāḥ  
Mahākāṭitāṣaṇṇyaḥ  
kampamānaih payodharaih  
kaṭāxahāvamādhuryāiṣ  
cetobuddhimanoharaih. III,<sup>1786</sup>.

o: And these and others danced in thousands here and there, busied in winning the spectator's thought, having the lotus eyes of the Siddha's, full hips and buttocks, with trembling breasts, with roguishness and grace which stole thought, sense and mind.

In III,<sup>1805</sup> Urvaṣī is called suṣṇṇī. When she tried to tempt Arjuna, she is described as follows:

Nirgamya candrodayane  
vigādhe rajanīmukhe  
prasthitā sā prthuṣṇṇī  
Pārthasya bhavanaṁ prati  
Mrḍukuñcitadīrghena  
kusumotkaradhārīṇā

keçahastena lalanā  
 jagāmātha virājatī  
 Bhrūxepālāpamādhuryāih  
 kantiyā sāumyatayāpi ca  
 çaçinaṁ vaktracandreṇa  
 sā hvayantīva gacchatī  
 Divyāṅgarāgāu sumukhāu  
 divyacandanarūṣitāu  
 gacchantyā hāravikacāu  
 stanāu tasyā vavalgatuh,  
 Stanodvahanasamxobhān  
 namyamānā pade pade  
 tribalidāmacitreṇa  
 madhyenātīvā çobhinā  
 Adhobhūdharavistīrṇam  
 nitambonnatapīvaram  
 manmathāyatanaṁ çubhram  
 rasanādāmabhūṣitam  
 Rṣinām api divyānām  
 manovyāghātakāraṇam  
 sūxmavastradharaṁ reje  
 jaghanaṁ niravadyavat  
 Gūḍhagulphadharāu pādāu  
 tāmṛāyatatalāṅgulī  
 kūrmapṛṣṭhonnatāu cāpi  
 çobhete kiṅkiṇikīnāu  
 Sidhupānena cālpena  
 tuṣṭātha madanena ca  
 vilāsanāiç ca vividhāih  
 prexaṇiyatarābhavat,  
 Siddha-Cāraṇa-Gandharvāih  
 sā prayātā vilāsini



Miçrakeçi	Prajāgarā
Daṇḍagāurī	Cittrasenā
Varūthinī	Cittralekhā
Gopālī	Sahā
Sahajanyā	Madhurasvanā
Kumbhayoni	

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and in XIII,<sup>1424</sup>:

Urvarā	Sukeçi
Miçrakeçi	Sumukhī
Rambhā	Hāsini
Urvaçi	Prabhā
Alambuṣā	Vidyutā
Ghṛtācī	Prathamī
Mittrā	Dāntā
Citrāṅgadā	Vidyotā
Ruci	Rati
Manoharā	

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Of these names 4 occur in all 3 lists, 2 in 2 lists:

Miçrakeçi	Menakā
Rambhā	Sahajanyā
Ghṛtācī	
Urvaçi	

It is difficult to find in these names, at least as far as most of them are concerned, anything that particularly characterises an Apsaras.

b. Gandhrava's are the musicians of heaven. They play on vīṇā's (IX,<sup>3053</sup>) and sing songs to the most beautiful melodies.

Vīṇāsu vādyamānāsu  
 Gandharvāih Çakranandana  
 divye manorame geye  
 pravṛtte prthulocana  
 Sarvāpsarahsu mukhyāsu  
 pranṛttāsu Kurūdvaḥ  
 tvaṁ kilānimiṣaḥ Pārtha  
 mām ekāṁ tatra dṛṣṭavān. III,1813.

- o: While the vīṇā's were struck by the Gandharva's,  
 o Çakra's son, and while divine and ravishing songs  
 were sung, o thou great-eyed, and while all the  
 principal Apsaras'es danced, o Kuru-son, you gazed  
 on me alone.

Avādayat tatra vīṇāṁ  
 madhye Viçvāvasuḥ svayāṁ. XII,969.

- o: Viçvāvasu (the great Gandharva) struck the vīṇā  
 himself in their midst.

Tatra sma gāthā gāyanti  
 sāmṇā paramavaḷgunā  
 Gandharvās Tumburu-çreṣṭhāḥ  
 kuçalā gītasāmasu. III,1783.

- o: Gandharva's with Tumburu at their head, skilful in  
 song and melody, sing songs there to the most  
 beautiful tunes.

The Gandharva's are said to reside near the lake  
 Mānasa (II,1042) and on Mount Niṣadha.

To the Gandharva's belong also the Kinnara's and  
 other Nara's (II,396).

c. Cāraṇa's are wandering Minstrels (Bards,  
 Troubadours). They admire and sing the praise of heroes.



Maṅgalāih stutibhiḥ cāpi  
 vijayapratīsamhitāih  
 Cāraṇāih stūyamānāu tāu  
 jagmataḥ parayā mudā I,7655.

- o: Under auspicious hymns of praise that proclaimed victory, extolled by the Cāraṇa's, the two set forth with great joy.

The Cāraṇa's are especially named in connection with the Siddha's (III,1756. VII,2817, 5692, 7188).

### C. The Açvin's.

The two divine Açvin's, tridaçāçvināu, (III,10345) Nāsatya and Dasra by name (XIII,7095, 7583) who are distinguished by their personal beauty ( ) are the heavenly physicians who understand to restore youth and beauty to men.

Āvām devabhiṣagvarāu  
 yuvānam rūpasampannam  
 kariṣyāvah patiṁ tava III,10356.

- o: We are the two excellent divine physicians, we will make your husband young and beautiful.

In XII,10215 they are called bhisajāu varāu, the two excellent physicians.

According to I,2599 they are the offspring of Tvāṣṭrī and Savitar and belong to the Guhyaka's, but in XIII,4126 they are said to have arisen from the tears of Agni, and in XII,7583. XIII,7095 they are named as being the sons of Mārtanda and said to have come from (his wife's) Sañjñā's nose.

Indra would not acknowledge their divinity and

their right to the Soma-offer, as by birth they were Çūdra's (XII,7590), but he was compelled to do so by Cyavana who had received perpetual youth from them (III,10371. XIII,7307. III,10349). See below.

### The Deeds of the Açvin's.

In III,10345 we read the following tale about the Açvin's:

Kasyacit tv-atha kālasya  
tridaçāv Açvināu nṛpa  
kṛtābhiṣekām vivṛtām  
Sukanyām tām apaçyatām.  
Tām dṛṣṭvā darçanīyāṅgīm  
devarājasutām iva  
ūcatuḥ samabhidrutya  
Nāsatyāv Açvināv idaṁ:  
Kasya tvam asi vāmoru  
vane 'smin kiṁ karoṣi ca  
icchāva bhadre jñātum tvām  
tattvam ākhyāhi çobhane.  
Tataḥ Sukanyā savriḍā  
tāv uvāca surottamāu:  
Çaryātitanayām vittām  
bhāryām mām Cyavanasya ca.  
Athâçvināu prahasyâtām  
abrûtām punar eva tu:  
katham tvam asi kalyāṇi  
pitṛā dattā gatādhvane  
Bhrājase 'smin vane bhīru  
vidyut sādāmini yathā  
na deveṣv-*api* tulyām hi  
tvayāpaçyāva bhāvini,

Anābharāṇasampannā  
 paramāmbavarajitā  
 çobhayasy-adhikaṁ bhadre  
 vanam apy-analāñkṛtā  
 Sarvābharāṇasampannā  
 paramāmbaradhārīnī  
 çobhase tv-anavadyāñgi  
 na tv-evam malapañkinī.  
 Kasmād evaṁvidhā bhūtvā  
 jarājarjaritaṁ patiṁ  
 tvam upāsse ha kalyāṇi  
 kāmabhogavahiṣkṛtaṁ  
 Asamarthaṁ paritrāṇe  
 poṣaṇe ca çucismite,  
 sā tvaṁ Cyavanam utsṛjya  
 varayasvāikam āvayoh  
 Patyartham devagarbhābhe  
 mā vṛthā yāuvanaṁ kṛthāh,  
 evam uktā Sukanyāpi  
 surāu tāv idam abravīt:  
 Ratāham Cyavane patyāu  
 māivaṁ mām paryaçañkithāh;  
 tāv abrūtām panas tv-enām:  
 āvām devabhiṣagvarāu  
 Yuvānaṁ rūpasampannaṁ  
 kariṣyāvah patiṁ tava,  
 tatas tasyāvāyoç cāiva  
 vṛṇoṣvānyatamaṁ patiṁ.  
 Etena samayenāśinam  
 āmantraya patiṁ cubhe;  
 sā tayor vacanād rājann  
 upasaṅgamyā Bhārgavaṁ

Uvāca vākyaṁ yat tābhyāṁ  
 uktaṁ Bhṛgu-sutaṁ prati,  
 tac chrutvā Cyavano bhāryāṁ  
 uvāca: kriyatām iti.  
 Bhartrā sā samanujñātā  
 kriyatām ity-athâbravīt;  
 çrutvā tadâçvināu vākyaṁ  
 tat tasyāḥ kriyatām iti  
 Ūcatū rājaputrīṁ tām:  
 patis tava viçatv-apah;  
 tato 'mbhaç Cyaranah çighraṁ  
 rūpārthī praviveça ha.  
 Açvināv api tad rājan  
 sarah prāviçatām tadā,  
 tato muhūrtād uttīrṇāḥ  
 sarve te saratas tadā  
 Divyarūpadharāḥ sarve  
 yuvāno mṛṣṭakunḍalāḥ  
 tulyaveçadharāç cāiva  
 manasah prītivardhanāḥ  
 Te 'bruvan sahitāḥ sarve:  
 vṛṇīṣvānyatamaṁ çubhe  
 asmākam īpsitaṁ bhadre  
 patitve varavarṇini  
 Yatra vāpy-abhikāmāsi  
 taṁ vṛṇīṣva suçobhane,  
 sā samīxya tu tān sarvāṁs  
 tulyarūpadharān sthitān  
 Niçeitya manasā buddhyā  
 devī vavre svakaṁ patiṁ,  
 labdhvā tu Cyavano bhāryāṁ  
 vayo rūpaṁ ca vāñchitaṁ

Hr̥ṣṭo 'bravīn mahātejās  
 tāu Nāsatyāv idam vacah:  
 yathāham rūpasampanno  
 vayasā ca samanvitah  
 Kṛto bhavadhyām vṛddhah san  
 bhāryāñ ca prāptavān imām  
 tasmād yuvām kariṣyāmi  
 prītyāham somapītināu  
 Miṣato devarājasya,  
 satyam etad bravīmi vām;  
 tac chrutvā hr̥ṣṭamanasāu  
 divam tāu pratijagmatuh,  
 Cyavanaḥ ca Sukanyā ca  
 surāv iva vijahratuh.

- ॐ: 'Once on a time, O king, those celestials, namely, the twin Aṇwins happened to behold Sukanyā, when she had (just) bathed, and when her person was bare. And seeing that one of excellent limbs, and like unto the daughter of the lord of celestials, the nose-born Aṇwins neared her, and adressed her, saying, — O thou of shapely thighs, whose daughter art thou? And what doest thou in this wood? O auspicious one, O thou of excellent grace, we desire to know this, — do thou therefore tell us. — Thereupon she replied bashfully unto those foremost of celestials, — Know me as Saryāti's daughter, and Chyavana's wife. — Thereat the Aṇwins again spake unto her, smiling, — What for, O fortunate one, hath thy father bestowed thee on a person who is verging on death? Surely, O timid girl, thou shinest in this wood like lightning. Not in the regions of the celestials themselves, O girl, have our

eyes lighted on thy like. O damsel, unadorned and without gay robes as thou art, thou beautifiest this wood exceedingly. Still, O thou of faultless limbs, thou canst not look so beautiful, when (as at present) thou art soiled with mud and dirt, as thou couldst, if decked with every ornament and wearing gorgeous apparel. Why, O excellent wench, in such plight servest thou a decrepit old husband, and one that has become incapable of realising pleasure and also of maintaining thee, O thou of luminous smiles? O divinely beautiful damsel, do thou, forsaking Chyavana, accept one of us for husband. It behoveth thee not to spend thy youth fruitlessly. —

„Thus addressed, Sukanyā answered the celestials, saying, — I am devoted to my husband, Chyavana: do ye not entertain any doubts (regarding my fidelity). — Thereupon they again spake unto her, — We two are the celestial physicians of note. We will make thy lord young and graceful. Do thou then select one of us — viz, ourselves and thy husband — thy partner. Promising this, do thou, O auspicious one, bring hither thy husband. — O king, agreeably to their words, she went to Bhṛigu's son, and communicated to him what the two celestials had said. Hearing her message, Chyavana said unto his wife, — Do thou so. — Having received the permission of her lord (she returned to the celestials) and said, — Do ye so. — Then hearing her words, viz, — Do ye so, — they spake unto the king's daughter, — Let thy husband enter into water. — Thereat Chyavana, desirous of obtaining beauty, quickly entered into water. The twin Açvins

also, O king, sank into the sheet of water. And the next moment they all came out of the tank in surpassingly beautiful forms, and young, and wearing burnished ear-rings. And all possessed of the same appearance, pleasing to behold, addressed her, saying — O fortunate one, do thou choose one of us for spouse. And, O beauteous one, do thou select him for lord who may please thy fancy. — Finding, however, all of them of the same likeness, she deliberated; and at last ascertaining the identity of her husband, even selected him.

„Having obtained coveted beauty and also his wife, Chyavana, of exceeding energy, well pleased, spake these words unto the nose-born celestials, — Since at your hands, an old man, I have obtained youth, and beauty, and also this wife of mine, I will, well-pleased, make you quaffers of the Soma juice in the presence of the lord of celestials himself. This I tell you truly. — Hearing this, highly delighted, the twins ascended to heaven; and Chyavana and Sukanyā began to pass their days happily, even like celestials.” (Roy.)

#### D. The Lokapāla's.

As Lokapāla's ०: Guardians of the world, 4 are named in III, 2138, cfr. 2127, 2140 follow. (Manu, V, 98 has 8).

Evam ukte Nāiṣadhena  
 Maghavān abhyabhāṣata:  
 Amarān vāi nibodhāsmān  
 Damayantyarthaṁ āgatān,  
 Aham Indro 'yam Agniḥ ca

tathāivāyam Apām patih  
 çarirāntakaro nṛnām.  
 Yamo 'yam api pārthiva,  
 Tvaṁ vāi samāgatān asmān  
 Damayantyāi nivedaya:  
 Lokapālā Mahendrādyaḥ  
 sabbhām yānti didraxavah,  
 prāptum icchanti devās tvaṁ  
 Çakro 'gnir Varuṇo Yamah.

- o: When this was said by the Nāiṣadha, Maghavat answered: know that we are immortals who have come for Damayantī's sake, I am Indra, and this is Agni, and this likewise is the lord of the waters; and this, o chief, is Yama who destroys men's bodies, let it be known to D. that we have come: the Guardians of the world, Mahendra and the others will come to the meeting desirous of seeing (thee), the gods wish to win thee, Çakra, Agni, Varuṇa (and) Yama.

But in III,<sup>1670</sup> Kuvera is inserted instead of Agni. In III,<sup>16179</sup> Rāvaṇa, alluding to himself says that he is renowned in being known as the 5<sup>th</sup> Lokapāla, which proves that ordinarily there are only 4.

Concerning 1. Indra and 2. Varuṇa see above, about 3. Agni see below.

#### 4. Yama.

This god's more frequently recurring names are besides Yama (XIII,<sup>3509</sup>) the following: 'Pitṛāja (I,<sup>7077</sup>. XIII,<sup>4495</sup>. VIII,<sup>4674</sup>), Pitṛnām prabhu (XII,<sup>4495</sup>). Pitṛnām içvara (III,<sup>10658</sup>), Pitṛnām samāvartin (XII,<sup>7552</sup>), Pretarāja (III,<sup>11849</sup>) and the like; further Vāivasvata (XII,<sup>4495</sup>. XIII,<sup>3500</sup>).



He is called Yama, it being he who keeps mankind in check:

Yamo yacchati bhūtāni

sarvāny-evāviṣṣatah. XII,3446. III,16781.

o: Yama controls all beings without distinction.

Gatah sa bhagavān devah

prajāsaṁyamano Yamah. III,16813.

Pitrāja he is called because he rules in the kingdom of the dead, the pitr's or the ancestors, and

Vāivasvata as the son of Vivasvat, Vivasvata-suta, Vivasvata-tanaya o: son of the shining sun (III,16788). As son of the sun one would suppose that he would keep in the neighbourhood of the sun, but on the contrary

his Kingdom, it is true, is in the South, but under the earth (V,3779. VIII,2102. XIII,4661. III,1680, 11848). In V,3782 the South is called Yama's second door, cfr. first door at the beginning of the former chapter. His kingdom has many names: Yama-rāṣṭra (IX,750. VII,1447), -xaya (II,1427. XII,168, 11128), -sādāna (I,1710, 1758, 4143. VII,5344); also Pitriloka (V,1581) and Mahā-niraya (XII,12075).

In this realm is the river Vāitaranī (V,3792) and the Rāurava-hell (XIII,4625).

His dwelling, called Saṁyamana, is described as being marvellously beautiful (III,11849) and his

Assembly-hall, sabhā (II,311 follow.) which was built by Viṣvakarman shines like bright gold. Here is neither sorrow nor decrepitude, neither is there hunger or thirst, but all you can wish for is to be found there, and many sages and kings assemble there to pay homage

to Yama. And there is singing, dancing and merriment from Gandharva's and Apsaras'es. Such is the high Pitṛ-king's assemblage.

Īdr̥cī sā sabbā rājan

Pitṛrājño mahātmanah II,352.

His person is described as being dark. c̥yāma, (III,16812), with red eyes, lohītāxa, (XII,131), with a dreadfully shaped body, ghorarūpa, (III,14559), with majestic manners, puruṣa mahāujas (III,16818). In III,16759 his appearance is thus depicted:

Muhūrtād eva cāpaçyat

puruṣaṁ raktavāsaṁ

baddhamāulīm vapuṣmantam

ādityasamatejaṣaṁ

Çyāmāvadātāṁ raktāxam

pāçahastaṁ bhayāvaham

sthitam Satyavataḥ pārçve

nirīxantaṁ tam eva ca.

- o: Suddenly she saw a man in red clothes with his hair tied up on the top of his head, of great size, shining like the sun and of bright blue colour, with red eyes, holding a noose in his hand, striking her with terror, standing by the side of Satyavat and gazing at him.

His wife is named Dhūmorṇā (XIII,7637). Daxa prajāpati gave 10 of his daughters to Yama (I,2577). But in XII,2252 Çrī is named as being his consort, thus also in I,2578.

His messengers, puruṣa, are described as wearing black apparel, having red eyes, bristling hair, and legs, eyes and noses like a crow (XIII,3399).

His charioteer, *sārathi*, is called in XII,<sup>12085</sup> Roga, sickness.

His weapons are a staff, *daṇḍa* (I,<sup>7077</sup>), *Yama-daṇḍa* (IX,<sup>3202</sup>, 151. VII,<sup>60115</sup>. V,<sup>7271</sup>. XII,<sup>428</sup>), and a noose, *pāṇa*, (VII,<sup>1617</sup>. III,<sup>16755</sup>).

Yama has two four-eyed dogs, offspring of *Saramā* who in III,<sup>14487</sup> is called *mātā ṇunām devī* and in I,<sup>672</sup> *devaṇunī*; cfr. Monier-Williams in Ind. Antiq. 1877. p. 313.

Most of the names of this god indicate two sides of his character:

a. He is the God of death who destroys life in man, therefore he is called *Lokāntakṛt* (III,<sup>1672</sup>), *Kālāntaka-Yama* (III,<sup>879</sup>), *Yamāntaka* (II,<sup>690</sup>), *Antaka* (I,<sup>1617</sup>. V,<sup>2236</sup>), wherefore he is also accompanied by *Mṛtyu*, death, and is surrounded by hundreds of dreadful diseases (III,<sup>14550</sup>) and his messengers, *Yama-dūta* (III,<sup>3419</sup>, 16700) who execute his commands, lead the fatigued through a barren district, where there is neither shade nor water, on to Yama (III,<sup>13397</sup>).

To die is called to go to Yama's mansion (III,<sup>451</sup>), to kill to send to Yama's mansion (III,<sup>1560</sup>).

b. Secondly he is as *Pretarāja*, the king of the dead, (I,<sup>2063</sup>. III,<sup>11849</sup>), the just judge, *Dharmarāja* (I,<sup>976</sup>. III,<sup>16074</sup>, 16788), *Dharmendra* (VII,<sup>160</sup>), before whose throne all must meet (XII,<sup>12078</sup>), but they must go there singly without friends or relatives, their deeds only accompany them (XII,<sup>12093</sup>). And he is not only wise in *dharma*, but he is himself *Dharma* (III,<sup>7079</sup>), and the whole world has its root in *dharma*

sarvo hi loko nrpa dharmamūlah XII,<sup>4407</sup>.

And as the avenger he is himself *Daṇḍa* (XII,<sup>434</sup>).

As ruler of Pitṛloka, the world of ancestors, he is, as a king, gracious towards the just, and punishes the unjust (XII,<sup>2578</sup>, <sup>7552</sup>. V,<sup>3793</sup>. XIII,<sup>4856</sup>), and daṇḍa is the symbol of his righteous judgements and chastising power, and on these heaven and earth rest. (XII,<sup>425</sup> follow).

Daṇḍah cāsti prajāḥ sarvā

daṇḍa evābhiraxati

daṇḍah supteṣu jāgarti

daṇḍam dharmaṁ vidur budhāḥ XII,<sup>425</sup> — Manu VI,<sup>18</sup>.

- ∴ The staff rules over all creatures, the staff protects (them all), the staff watches the sleeping, the staff acknowledge the wise to be dharma.

Daṇḍe sthitāḥ prajāḥ sarvā,

daṇḍe sarvaṁ vidur budhāḥ,

daṇḍe svargo manuṣyānām

loko 'yañ ca pratiṣṭhitah XII,<sup>466</sup>.

- ∴ To the staff all beings are subject, all things depend on the staff say the wise, by the staff stand Svarga and this world of mankind fast.

In XIII,<sup>3505</sup> follw. the delightful regions and dwellings are described to which the righteous come after death.

As a specimen of the punishments of Hell we mention the following:

Yo lubdhah sabhṛçaṁ priyānṛtaç ca manuṣyah

satatanikṛtīvacanābhiratih syāt

Upanidhibhir asukhakṛt sa paramanirayago

bhṛçaṁ asukhaṁ anubhavati duṣkṛtakarmā,

Uṣṇām Vāitaranīm nadīm

avagāḍho 'sipatravanabhinnaḡātrah

Paraçuvanaçayo nipatito

vasati ca Mahāniraye bhr̥cārttah. XII,13074.

- o: That man who is led by desire, who is dishonest, is fond of base language, who causes distress having property in charge (?), he goes to the greatest hell and suffers great distress as one who has practised misdeeds; sunk in the hot stream, Vāitaranīm, his limbs wounded in the sword-leaved forest, lying there fallen in the forest of axes, he lives frightfully tortured in the great hell.

In III,8552 is related, how Agastya sees his forefathers in hell, hanging in a cave head downwards, and how they might be saved (for the Deva-world) if he marries and has a son who can continue the descent of the family.

According to XII,525 there are two roads: one leading to the Pitṛ's, and one leading to the Deva's. In XII,1009, 1131, 5417 the Pitṛ's and the Deva's are likewise opposed to one another, but in II,460 follow. it is said that Pitṛ's, of whom there are 7 classes, serve Brahmā in heaven.

### Yama's Deeds.

One of the most charming episodes in the Mahābhārata is the tale of the faithful woman Sāvitrī to whom Yama from pity gave back her husband, restoring him to life again.

King Aṣvapati's daughter Savitrī who was as beautiful as Çrī chose Satyavat for her husband. He was the son of king Dyumatsena who was blind and lived in the forest having been despoiled of his kingdom by his enemy. The divine sage Nārada told her

father that Satyavat amidst all his virtues had one fault, and that was that at the end of a year he would die. When king Aṅvapati heard this he said to Sāvitṛī: go and choose another, but Sāvitṛī did not waver, and Nārada approved of her choice. She married Satyavat and clothed herself in bark and red garments, and by her helpfulness and solicitude and unselfishness she won all hearts. Life in the hermitage ran smoothly and peacefully, but Sāvitṛī pondered night and day unceasingly on Nārada's words, and penances emaciated her. Then when one day Satyavat, at the time the sands of his life had nearly run out, took his axe and went into the forest to fetch wood, Sāvitṛī followed her husband with smiles on her lips at the sight of the flowering wood and the clear rivers, but pained in her heart with sorrow. And Satyavat said to her: look at these divine rivers and these gorgeous flowering trees! But Sāvitṛī's thoughts dwelt only on Nārada's prophecy. And Satyavat plucked fruit and began to cut the branches off the trees, but as the exertion made him perspire, and his head began to ache, he approached his wife, saying: I should like to rest and sleep a little. So Sāvitṛī sat down on the ground and laid his head on her lap. The next moment she saw a man coming who was dressed in red clothing, he had a diadem on his head and a noose in his hand. He came close to Satyavat and stood looking at him. Then Sāvitṛī laid her husband's head gently on the ground, and as she rose said tremblingly and in a sorrowful tone: thou art a god, tell me, what is thy will. Yama answered: yes I am Yama; your husband's days are ended, and I have come to lead him away, that is my errand. Sāvitṛī

replied: I have heard that thy messengers come to fetch mortals, how is it that thou thyself hast come? And Yama answered: this prince is very virtuous, therefore I have come myself. And Yama drew forth the dead man's soul and began to lead it towards the south. But Sāvitṛī followed him. Yama said: go back Sāvitṛī, and mourn for thy husband, thou art now freed from thy duties towards thy lord, and thou canst not accompany us. But Sāvitṛī replied: where my husband goes there will I follow him, that is the eternal law. Yama answered: thine argument pleases me, choose a gift from me, and with the exception of thy husband's life, whatsoever it be, it shall be granted. And Sāvitṛī asked first that her father-in-law might have his sight and his kingdom restored to him, and Yama answered: so be it! She asked next that her father might have a hundred sons to propagate his race, and Yama consented also to this desire, but reminded her at the same time that she must really go back now as she had already come too far. But Sāvitṛī said: the last wish you granted me cannot be fulfilled without my husband, therefore I pray thee give me his life, without him I am as one dead, and do not even desire heaven, thou hast thyself promised me a hundred sons, and yet thou wilt take my husband from me, let Satyavat live that thy promise may be fulfilled. Then at last Yama gave way, and Sāvitṛī got back her husband.

E. The Marut's, the Gods of the winds.

The etymology of the word Marut is uncertain. Marut comes perhaps from mar=to shine, see Grassm. Wörterbuch. The Marut's are often named in the Ma-

hābhārata, generally combined with other deities as in III,<sup>1768</sup>. VI,<sup>1258</sup>, 1260. Hariv.,<sup>441</sup>, 11050, 12112 etc., but particularly together with Indra who in consequence is also called Ma'rutvat.

Marudbhih saha jetvārīn  
 Bhagavān Pākaçāsanah  
 ekāikaṁ kratum āhṛtya  
 çatakṛtvah Çatakratuḥ  
 dhūtapāpmā jitasvargo  
 lokān prāpya sukhodayān  
 Marudgaṇair vṛtah Çakrah  
 çuçubhe bhāsayan diçah. XII,<sup>1198</sup>.

o: Having conquered the enemy together with the Marut's and after having made a hundred sacrifices one after another, Çatakratu having shaken off his sin and conquered Svarga and obtained worlds of gladness, surrounded by crowds of Marut's Çakra shone while lighting up all the quarters of the heavens.

See furthermore XIII,<sup>916</sup>. XIV,<sup>1476</sup>. III,<sup>11523</sup>, 14782.

The accounts in V,<sup>3808</sup> and in IX,<sup>2218</sup> about the origin of the Marut's are equally absurd and equally disgusting, according to the first they would also be Dāitya's.

In XIII,<sup>5315</sup> seven Marut's are spoken of (cfr. IX,<sup>2222</sup>), and in V,<sup>1225</sup> Marīci is mentioned as the most distinguished of them. According to this the Marut's would be identical with the Prajāpati's.

Their function is to protect Indra in his battles with his enemies (VIII,<sup>4206</sup>).

F. The Pitṛ's. See above under Yama.



G. The Prajāpati's. See above under Brahmā.

H. The Ṛbhu's.

The Ṛbhu's constitute the highest class of the gods. They neither need sacrifices nor amṛta. They are entirely without desire. They are superior both to happiness and to misery. They are eternal gods who survive every kalpa (æon), therefore even the Deva's desire that state. In III,<sup>15457</sup> we read:

Teṣāṃ tathāvidhānān tu  
lokānāṃ munipuṅgava  
upary-upari lokasya  
lokā divyā guṇānvitāḥ,  
Purastād brāhmaṇās tatra  
lokās tejomayāḥ ṣubhāḥ  
yatra yānty- Ṛṣayo brahman  
pūtāḥ svāḥ karmabhiḥ ṣubhāḥ,  
Ṛbhavo nāma tatrānye  
devānāṃ api devatāḥ  
tesāṃ lokāḥ paratare  
yān yajantiḥa devatāḥ  
Svayamprabhās te bhāsvanto  
lokāḥ kāmādughāḥ pare,  
na teṣāṃ strīkṛtas tāpo  
na lokāiṣvāyamatsarah,  
Na vartayanty-āhutibhis  
te nāpy-amṛtabhojanāḥ  
tathā divyaçarīrās te  
na ca vīgrahamūrtayah,  
Na sukhe sukhakāmās te  
devadevāḥ sanātanāḥ  
na kalpaparivarteṣu

parivartanti te tathā,  
 Jarā mṛtyuh kutas teṣāṃ  
 haṛṣaḥ prītiḥ sukhaṃ na ca  
 na duḥkhaṃ na sukhaṃ cāpi  
 rāga-dveṣāu kuto mune,  
 Devānāṃ api Modgalya  
 kāṅkṣitā sā gatiḥ parā,  
 duṣprāpā paramā siddhir  
 agamyā kāmaga-carāḥ.

- o: But above each separate world of these thus conditioned worlds are the divine spheres with the highest virtues; above all are there the brahmanic worlds, the glorious, the beautiful, where Rṣi's go when purified by their works. There are other godheads among the gods there, Ribhu's by name their worlds are still higher, and even the gods here worship them, self-luminous are these shining worlds that yield all that one wishes for, the eminent (beings here) have no lust called forth by women, neither do they thirst for worldly power; they do not live by sacrifices and do not partake of Amṛta, they have divine bodies and not material forms; they do not seek pleasure in happiness. these eternal gods of gods, neither are they whirled about in the rolling world's revolutions (kalpa), they do not know old age and death, nor amusement, joy and gladness, not pain nor happiness, nor love and hate; sought by the gods themselves is that high elevated station which is difficult to reach, the highest perfection which cannot be acquired by those who are governed by their passions.

## I. The Rṣi's.

Different Rṣi's are often mentioned in the MBh., sometimes in a general way as Rṣi's, ṛṣi, and Great-Rṣi's, maharṣi, and sometimes especially as Deva-Rṣi's, devarṣi (XVII,106), Brahman-Rṣi's, brahmarṣi (III,11089), and King-Rṣi's, rājarṣi (XII,634). Of the first mentioned there are said to be 7 with Vāciṣṭha at their head (III,11855).

Sapta devarṣayas tāta

Vāciṣṭha-pramukhās tadā, cfr. XII,12722 follow.

These must therefore be identical with the 7 Prajā-pati's, cfr. supra.

Amongst the great number of Rṣi's Bhṛgu (XII,96) Vṛhaspati, the teacher of the gods (I,3941) and Nārada (I,3191) are most frequently named.

About the different practices of the different sorts of Rṣi's see XIII,6485 follow.

## J. The Rudra's.

The Rudra's or the Storm-gods are said in XII,7540 to be sons of Dharma (Yama), and in XII,4498 to have Iṣāna (Śiva) as their protector, goptar. They are 11 (III,10667) in number, named in I,2565 thus:

Mṛgavyādhaç ca Sarpaç ca

Nirṛtiç ca mahāyaçāh

Ajāikapād-Ahimbudhnyah

Pināki ca parantapah

Dahano 'theçvaraç cāiva

Kapāli ca mahādyutih

Sthānur Bhagaç ca bhagavān

Rudrā ekādaça smṛtāh. Cfr. I,4825.

Another list different from this is to be found in XIII,<sup>7090</sup>, cfr. Wilson, V. P. p. 121. But in XIII,<sup>984</sup> it is said that 1100 Rudra's praised Maheçvara.

### Rudra-Çiva.

In the Çiva-myth there is a remarkable duality, and it is not easy to explain wherein it has its origin.

In all likelihood the myth is a nature-myth which has arisen from the contemplation of the workings of nature with her manifold changes of character; and I am inclined to think that it must be understood as being originally an expression for, and a description of living nature in a mountainous district, with its often great contrasts between the inclement winter season, with its icy atmosphere and sparkling snow, and the balmy summer time delightful with its rich vegetation, and its coolness in opposition to the burning heat in the valleys below.

But this does not exclude the possibility of the myth having gradually altered in character, and the reason of its alteration from roughness to smoothness may lie in the change of disposition in the Hindu's themselves, after having removed from the north-west provinces, with their severe climate, to the valley of the Ganges, and from being a people divided in clans had become a community with social-ethical institutions, and with ascetism as the principal feature of their religious life.

That however Rudra is the oldest part of the myth is clearly shewn from the name of Rudra so frequently occurring in Rigveda, while Çiva is only used as an adjective in the sense of bringing good fortune, being gracious.

Çiva is most often in the Mahābhārata called Mahā-

deva the great god (II,1642. III,11985. VII,9623) or Devadeva, god of gods (III,11992), but he has, however, many other names concerning which see below.

He is a son of Brahmā, sprung from his forehead, lalāṭaprabhava (XII,13705, 13729); but according to III, he sprang from Viṣṇu's forehead.

He dwells on the holy Himavat.

Here on the ridge of Himavat the mighty master always sits, shining like the fire at the end of a Yuga (V,3325). On the north side of Mount Meru is a lovely Karpikāra-wood, full of flowers from all seasons of the year; there, surrounded by divine beings, Paçupati, Umā's husband, rejoices (VI,218. XIII,6399). In XII,10312 we find him on a horn of the mountain Meru called Sāvitra, and in VII,3465 on Mount Mandara.

He has fiery red hair (harikeça, vilohita) which flames like the sun (III,12239. VII,9522. X,256).

He has four faces, caturmukha, which he acquired in the following manner: Brahmā once created a beautiful woman named Tillottamā by extracting from each pearl (or costly thing) a small portion. Then this woman came, incomparable in shape and with a radiant countenance, and walked round Mahādeva and tempted him, and on whichever side she approached him there appeared a handsome face on his person. The three faces that turn towards east, north and west, are mild like the moon, but that which turns to the south is harsh. With that which turns to the east he rules, with that which turns to the north he is joyful to gether with Umā, the countenance he turns to the west is mild and brings gladness to all living creatures, but

that which turns to the south is terrible and destroys all beings (XIII,6390 follow. 6384).

He has three eyes and is therefore called trine-tra, tryambaka (III,11984. XII,10357. VII,1579, 2875, 9624. Kālidāsa's Meghadūta, V,58), tryaxa (III,1513. VII,9629. VIII,4369. XII,10122), trinayana (Kālidāsa's Meghadūta V,52). They shine like three suns (XIII,846). In X,1251? it is said that Sun, Moon and Agni are his three eyes.

How Çiva came to have a third eye is related in XIII,6362: To Hara came one day under a shower of flowers the beautiful daughter of the mountain (Umā) and standing behind him, smilingly and in jest put her hands suddenly over his eyes. Straightway everything was veiled in darkness and all life seemed to be extinguished. People trembled from fright; and as the lord of all beings had shut his eyes, the world was apparently without a sun. But the darkness soon disappeared, for a third eye flamed forth like a sun on his forehead. There is another version in XII,13205.

He has a blue neck and is therefore called Nīlakaṇṭha (II,1641. XIII,843, 1154), likewise Çitikaṇṭha (X,253. Kālidāsa's Kumāra-S. II,61) and Çrikaṇṭha (XII,13705).

There are different reasons given for his having a blue neck. Sometimes it is said that it was because he swallowed the strong poison, Halāhala, which came forth when the gods and the Asuras churned the ocean (see above), sometimes it is accounted for by Indra having thrown his thunderbolt after him (Çiva) (XIII,6397), a third version is that he was bitten by the snakes that darted out from Uçana's hair (XII,13205 follow., conf. 10680).

He has ten arms (XIII,1154).

He is clothed in skins (II,1643. X,256), especially in tiger skins (XIII,981). He is called the white one (VII,2858), for according to XIII,844 he wears a shining white garment, and his wreaths, shoulder cord, bull and banner are all of them white (XII,10364). And he bears the moon on his head as a diadem (X,261. XIII,846).

His conveyance, vāhana, driven by Kāla (III,14543), is a white bull, vṛṣa, vṛṣabha (II,415), which Brahmā gave him both as chariot and banner (XIII,6401). It has a huge body and beautiful honey-brown eyes. Its neck is very thick. Its horns are as hard as adamant, with their sharp red points it tears up the earth (Kālidāsa's Meghad. V,52). It has broad shoulders, sleek sides and a black tail, and it is decorated with a golden girth. Its hump resembles the top of a snow mountain. On this bull Devadeva sits with Umā (XIII,831). Another account says it was the sage of the gods, Daxa, who gave the bull to Īiva XIII,3723). He is therefore called Vṛṣāṇka, i.e. he whose emblem is a bull (III,10907. XIII,339, 6300. Kālid., Kumāra-S. III,14) and Vṛṣabhadhvaja, he who has a bull on his standard (III,1634).

His favourite weapon is the dreadful spear Pāṇu-pata, the eternal weapon, with which Maheçvara killed all the Dāityas in battle. At the end of a Yuga it destroys (saṁharate) the whole world. Mahādeva gave it to Arjuna, after he had fought with him (III,11985. VII,2838. XIII,851). It is also called Brahmaçiras (I,5306. III,1644).

His battle-axe, paraçu, has a sharp edge. He gave it to Rāma, who destroyed the Xatris with it (XIII,864).

His bow, coloured like the rainbow, called Pināka, is a mighty serpent with seven heads, a big body, sharp and very poisonous teeth. It is always in his hand, so that he can assist the gods (XIII,849, 6396). He is called Pinākin after his bow (XIII,567, 7090).

The trident, triṣūla, commonly called the fork, Çūla, with which formerly King Mandhātār and all his army were annihilated (XIII,860). is also called Vijaya (III,14551), has three sharp points. Mahādeva is named Çūlin after the fork (III,1642. Kālid., Meghad. V,34), Çūladhara (III,1513) and Çūlapānin or Çūlapāni (V,1993. III,6055).

His wife is Umā (Kālid., Kumāra-S. I,26), the younger daughter of the mountain-king Himavat (XII,12169, Rāmāy. I,37, 8). After Himavat had promised her to Mahādeva, the sage of the gods Bhrigu came and said „Give me this girl“, but Himavat answered: „Chosen is the excellent Rudra“. Then Bhrigu said, „Since I, who have chosen the girl, am rejected, thou shalt no longer be a bowl full of pearls“. And even up to the present day the sage's word holds good (XII,13220). Umā also bears the names Parvatī, daughter of the mountain (XII,13220 foll. Kālid., Kumāra-S. I,26), Durgā the unapproachable (see below), and Gāurī, the radiant white one (X,258). After Umā Mahādeva is often called Umāpati, Umā's lord (XIII,1154. III,8836).

Mahādeva has a good friend Kuvera (II,417), and like Kuvera he is also called Lord of gold, hiranyapati (XII,10382), as they both rule over the rich-in-gold Himavat. The following quotation is in harmony with this

Namo hiranyagarbhāya  
hiranyakavacāya ca



hiranyakṛtacūdāya

hiranyapataye namah.

o: Honour to him who has gold inwardly, who has a golden mail, a golden comb, honour to the Lord of gold.

Mahādeva has many names and many shapes. But his names and qualities are most frequently mixed together, as if the principal thing was to enumerate as many as possible to increase his importance and divinity and make him the foremost of all, see for instance XIII,7496, 880, 1144. XII,10346; he is even, to be sure, sometimes made out to be Brahma himself (XIII,1043, 590, 784 follow.) In XII,10345. XIII,1143, 1296, it is said that he has 1008 names, in XIII,607, that he has a 1000 names and in different places he is said to be bahurūpa, having many shapes, thus for instance VII,9619. X,953. XII,12173. XIII,726 follow. All these names and shapes, some of which we have already mentioned and of which we in the following will speak of the most important, can however suitably be classified, as indeed the Hindu's themselves do, under two definitions or forms, which may be seen from XIII,7504—7510 (conf. VII,9599), to this effect:

Dve tanū tasya devasya  
vedajñā brāhmaṇā viduh,  
ghorām anyām çivām anyām,  
te tanū bahudhā punah.  
Ugrā ghorā tanur yā sā  
so 'gnir vidyut sa bhāskarāh  
çivā sāumyā ca yā tv-asya  
dharmaś tv-āpo 'tha candramāh.

Ātmano 'rdhan tu tasyāgnih  
 somo 'rdham punar ucyate,  
 brahmacaryam caraty-ekā  
 çivā yāsyā tanus tathā.  
 Yāsyā ghoratamā mūrtir  
 jagat saṁharate tadā,  
 içvaratvān mahatvāc ca  
 Maheçvara iti smṛtah.  
 Yan nirdahati yat tixṇo  
 yad ugro yat pratāpavān  
 māṁsaçonitamajjādo  
 yat tato Rudra ucyate.  
 Devānām sumahān yac ca  
 yac cāsyā viçayo mahān  
 yac ca viçvam mahat pāti  
 Mahādevas tatah smṛtah.  
 Dhūmrarūpaṁ ca yat tasya  
 Dhūrjaṭity-ata ucyate,  
 sa medhayati yan nityam  
 sarvān vāi sarvakarmabhih.  
 Maṇuṣyāṁ chivam anvicchaṁs  
 tasmād eva Çivah smṛtah.

- ॐ: This god has two shapes,  
 So teach the Brāhmaṇa's versed in the Veda's,  
 a terrible and a mild  
 and these shapes are again diversified.  
 That shape which is stern and frightful  
 that is fire lightning, and the sun,  
 but that which is mild and soft  
 that is dharma, water, and the moon.  
 Furthermore the one half of him is said to be  
 fire and the other half is the moon,

likewise it is said that the one form, that which is mild practises chastity.

Still further his most frightful apparition is the one which draws in the world; and on account of his sovereign might and power

he is called Maheçvara (the great Lord).

Because he burns up (the world) because he is sharp, because he is severe, because he is flaming, because he eats flesh, blood and marrow therefore he is called Rudra.

And because he is very great amongst gods and because his domain is great

and because he is omnipotent,

therefore he is called Mahādeva (the great god).

And because he has a dark shape,

he is also called Dhūrjāṭi,

and because he always, in all his works shows kindness to all mankind,

wishing them happiness

just therefore he is called Īiva.

To this duality must doubtless be added Īiva's being described as being half man and half woman.

a. As the severe, ugra (II,1642. X,252), the terrible, ghora (XII,10375), the appalling, vibhīṣaṇa (XII,10370) he appears mostly as Rudra, which clearly is his oldest name. Rudra probably means originally the howling one, from rud, to howl, shriek lat.: rudere. His laughter is frightful and hollow as the sound of the kettle-drum bhīmadundubhihāsa (XII,10369).

As the devastating power which sweeps away and destroys all things, he is named Hara and is identified

with sickness and death as well as with that all sweeping power which at last destroys all the universe. In XIII,<sup>1146</sup> he is said to be sarvabhūtabhara, he who sweeps away all beings. in X,<sup>349</sup>. XIII,<sup>6395</sup>, he is called Bhaganetrahara, in X,<sup>253</sup> Daxakratuhara. His deputy is fever (XII,<sup>10259</sup>). He is disease (VII,<sup>2877</sup>), he is death (XIII,<sup>7497</sup>). He destroys all both good and bad (XII,<sup>2791</sup>). He is unborn (X,<sup>253</sup>). This world is made by him (III,<sup>1626</sup>). By him are all things created, say the sages, and he absorbs all things created at the Yuga-demolition (IX,<sup>2236</sup>). He draws in the whole world, saṃharati, at the end of a Yuga, and swallows up all things (XIII,<sup>941-43</sup>). Everything owes it origin to Mahādeva, VII,<sup>9465</sup>, but

Adbhyaś stokā yānti yathā prthaktvaṃ  
tābhiḥ cāikyam saṅxaye yānti bhūyah  
evam vidvān prabhavaṃ cāpyayaṃ ca  
matvā bhūtānāṃ tava sayujam eti VII,<sup>9467</sup>.

- o: Even as from water expands single drops arise, and these again, at the destruction of the world mix with the waters, from whence they came, thus the wise man who reflects on the appearance and disappearance of all things becomes one with thee.

As belonging to the same feature of the nature of this god we must reckon all those names which define him as the Mighty Ruler, such as

Īcāna, the Ruler, (VII,<sup>2876</sup>. VIII,<sup>436</sup>. X,<sup>252</sup>. XII,<sup>4498</sup>).

Īṣvara, the Lord, (X,<sup>252</sup>).

Maheṣvara, the great Lord, (V,<sup>3825</sup>. XII,<sup>10292</sup>).

Viṣveṣvara, Lord of all, (III,<sup>7042</sup>).

Sthānu, the Immovable, (VII,<sup>9625</sup>. X,<sup>252</sup>. XIII,<sup>843</sup>).

Vṛṣa, the Bull, (II,1642).

and I suppose also:

Giriṣa, the Mountain-dweller, (VII,9524. X,250).

Kālid. has Giriṣa. Lord of the Mountains, see Bopp & B. R.

Paçupati, Lord over Beasts (wild ones? conf. I,1105. II,1642. III,15855. VI,219), paçunām pati (VII,2874, 8815, 9615. Kālid., Kumāra S. I,53).

As Destroyer Çiva is identified with Kāla, time (conf. supra p. 62) and is therefore described as the latter. Sa Kālas, he is Kāla (XIII,7497, 1161, 1188, 949) and of Kāla it is said: Kāla is he in whose power we all are.

Sarvasya hi prabhuh Kālo  
dharmatah samadarçanah,  
yāuvanasthāmç ca bālāmç ca  
vṛddhān garbhagatān api  
sarvān āvisate mṛtyur,  
evambhūtam idaṁ jagat. (XII,5718, 1175).

o: Kāla is everybody's master and looks justly with the same eyes (on all) upon youths and infants on the aged and even on those who lie in the womb, Death comes to all, such is this world.

All are created and are swept away again and again by Kāla (XIII,56). Thou art the beginning of the worlds, and thou art Kāla who absorbest them (XIII,918). I am Kāla the Mighty Destroyer of the world (VI,1278). Every action is accomplished at the instigation of Kāla (XIII,67). The whole world is animated by Kāla, kālātmaka (XIII,59).

In connection with this may be mentioned the description of Çiva as the Hideous-one. He has ears like spears, çāṅkukarṇa, he is large-eared, mahā-

kārṇa, he has ears like basins, kumbhakārṇa (XII, 10350). He has frightful ears and eyes, ugraçravaṇadarçana (III, 10856), a misshapen mouth, vikṛtavaktra (XII, 10371), a tongue like a sword, khaḍgajihva; large teeth, daṁṣṭrin, very sharp teeth (XIII, 1168).

b. As the mild, the friendly, the merciful Mahādeva appears especially under the names of Īiva and Çaṅkara. Thus it is said of him in VII, 9622:

Samedhayati yan nityam  
sarvārthān sarvakarmasu  
çivam icchan manuṣyānām  
tasmād eva Īivah smṛtah.

o: Because he always promotes all sorts of good fortune in all undertakings, since he wishes mankind happiness, just therefore he is called Īiva.

In VIII, 4361 he is called: sarvabhūtaçivah Īivah, the towards all beings friendly Īiva, in XIII, 889: sāumyavaktradhara, he who has a mild countenance, in XII, 5793: sarvabhūtahīte ratah, he who rejoices over the happiness of all beings. In XII, 5675 the following occurrence is related:

A Brahman had at last been blessed with a son, but the child died shortly afterwards from convulsions, and the relations brought it to the churchyard. A vulture which had been called thither by their loud lamentations, said to them „Go home, it is of no use staying here, all must die“. And the relations began to go away, at that moment a black jackal came out of his den and said:

„This child can perhaps come to life again, have you no love for it“. Then the men came back. But

the vulture said: „Why do you turn back, what is the use of your lamenting“. Then the jackal and the vulture began to dispute together, and the relations did not know what to do. Then the great god Çañkara, at the instigation of his wife Umā, came, with eyes full of pitying tears and said to the men: „I am the bountiful, varada, Çañkara“. And the men said: „Give our child life“. And the god bestowed life for a hundred years on the child, and he also gave the vulture and the jackal something with which to satisfy their hunger.

Together with this may be mentioned those places where Mahādeva is described as being gay and fond of music, singing and dancing. In XII,<sup>10365</sup> he is called *saṁhr̥ṣṭa*, the joyful, <sup>10367</sup> *gītavāditracālin*, acquainted with song and music, *nartanaçila*, devoted to dancing and to imitating drum music with the mouth, *mukhavāditravādin*. And his followers are just as merry (XIII,<sup>1396</sup>).

I think it most proper to place Çiva as Brahmācārin and practiser of penances under this the gentle side of his nature. In XIII,<sup>6396</sup> he is said to be *jaṭilo brahmācārī ca lokānām hitākāmyayā*, one who goes with uncombed hair and practises chasity because he wishes mankind's welfare, in VII,<sup>2879</sup> that he is *muṇḍa*, shaved, in VII,<sup>3464</sup> he is called *tapasām yoni*, the womb of penance, in XII,<sup>12331</sup> Mahādeva is said to have undertaken heavy penances on Himavat, according to VII,<sup>2838</sup> he is *valkalājinavāsas* clothed in bark and skins, in XII,<sup>12335</sup> it is said that he stood on one foot for a 1000 years, in X,<sup>253</sup> he is called *çmaçānavāsin*, he who lives at

crematories, in XII,<sup>10370</sup> citibhasmapriya, he who is fond of ashes from the funeral pile, and kapāla-hasta, he who holds a skull in his hand, XIII,<sup>6405</sup> reads thus:

Medhānveṣī mahim kṛtsnam  
vicarāmy-aniṣam sadā  
na ca medhyataram kiñcit  
çmaçānād iha laxyate.

- o: Seeking a fit offering place I wander ceaselessly over the whole earth, and there can be no better spot for that than the churchyard.

Durgā, Çiva's wife, has the same double character as her husband, and many of her qualities seem to be the same as his, so that she consequently appears as the feminine side of his nature.

According to VI,<sup>803</sup> she is kântāravāsinī, one who lives in trackless places, in VI,<sup>800</sup>. IV,<sup>193</sup> she is said to be fond of strife and of the Asura Mahiṣa's blood, and according to VI,<sup>806</sup>. IV,<sup>180</sup> she conquers Dānava's and Asura's in battle. She is called Kālī and Mahākālī, Kālī, the great Kālī, in VI,<sup>797</sup>, and in IV,<sup>195</sup> and in VI,<sup>803</sup> she is said to be the great (everlasting) sleep of all beings, mahānidrā dehinām.

On the other side she is Durgā, because she rescues from care and want:

Durgāt tārayase Durge  
tat tvam Durgā smṛtā janaiḥ,  
kântāresv-avasannānām  
magnānām ca mahārṇave  
dasyubhir vā niruddhānām  
tvam gatiḥ paramā nṛṇām. (IV,<sup>198</sup>.)



o: From want dost thou save, o Durgā,  
 therefore art thou called Durgā by man;  
 for those who are lost in trackless places,  
 for those who are wrecked in the great ocean,  
 for those who are distressed by bad beings  
 for such people art thou the best refuge;

and in *Mṛcchakaṭikā* ed. Stenzler p. 170 we read:

Holy Durgā! be merciful, be merciful!

Let Carudatta be saved and thereby shew thy goodness towards the race of Candāla. See Edv. Brandes' translation of the *Clay Cart* p. 174.

Furthermore she is said to live on Vindhya (IV,<sup>195</sup>), on Mandara (VI,<sup>796</sup>). She is a daughter of Yaçodā (IV,<sup>179</sup>), she is descended from the cow-herd Nanda's lineage (VI,<sup>799</sup>. IV,<sup>179</sup>), and is a sister to Vāsudeva (IV,<sup>180</sup>). She has four faces and four arms (IV,<sup>185</sup>), wears a diadem, shining in all colours, and her emblem is a peacock's tail (IV,<sup>190</sup>).

### Çiva's Heroic Deeds.

Among Çiva's renowned deeds we mention the following:

1) First that concerning Gangā Bhāgīrathī (VI,<sup>233</sup>. XIII,<sup>1784</sup> foll.). Gangā is India's most sacred river, and those districts through which it flows are the holiest in the world. To live near it and bathe in its waters is sufficient alone to purify from all sin and conduct to heaven,<sup>1</sup> hundreds of offerings are not equal

<sup>1</sup> The holiness of the Gangā-river is acknowledged up to this day: when in 1881 the queen of the king of Siam was burnt on the funeral pile two silver pails with water from the Gangā were put on the pile.

in value to bathing in the Gaṅgā. Even as snakes lose their poison at the mere sight of their enemy, the Garuḍa bird, so are you freed from all sin at the bare sight of the sacred stream. By bathing in Gaṅgā you not only deliver yourself from sin but also help your forefathers (the Pitri's). They who were just on the point of sinking into hell on account of their heavy sins, may be saved by the waters of Gaṅgā. When one sees the river swarming with swans and other aquatic birds, its banks beautified by delightful pastures adorned by herds of cattle, then even Heaven loses its attraction, and by living on its banks one enjoys greater happiness than in Heaven.

Meroh samudrasya ca sarvaratnaiḥ  
saṅkhyôpalānām udakasya vâpi  
çakyaṁ vaktuṁ nêha Gaṅgâjalānām  
guṇākhyānāṁ parimātuṁ tathâiva (XIII.1856).

- o: One may perhaps be able to count the stones of Mount Meru, and perhaps measure the water in the ocean with all its pearls, but to measure all the virtues of Gaṅgā's water is impossible.

Gaṅgā was Himavat's eldest daughter. Her younger sister was named Umā. Concerning Gaṅgā the following event is related (Rāmāyaṇa I, 40-43, Bombay ed. 1888. Mahābh. III. 8831).

King Sāgara in Ayodhyā had 60,000 sons. While they were searching once for a horse that had been stolen from a sacrifice of horses, they met the sage Kapila. They accused him of having stolen the missing horse, and in consequence he, in his anger, transformed them to ashes. Only by the aid of Ganga's holy waters

could they again come to life. It was Sāgara's great-great-grandson, Bhagīratha who at last succeeded in bringing the stream Ākāṣa-Gaṅgā, Vyoma-Gaṅgā, (Air-Ganges, Heaven-Ganges), down from heaven. and its violence was only restrained by Ćiva receiving it in the curls of his hair. This tale is often referred to in Mahābhārata, thus it is said in VI,<sup>225</sup>:

Tām dhārayām āsa tadā  
durdharām parvatāir api  
ṣaṭam varṣasahasrāṇām  
ṣirasāiva Pinākadhṛk

- o: Her, who is difficult to bear even by mountains, bore after this the holder of Pināka (Ćiva) on his head for a hundred thousand years, and in V,<sup>3225</sup>:

Atra Gaṅgām Mahādevah  
patantīm gaganāc cyutām  
pratighṛya dadāu loke  
mānuṣe, brahmavittama

- o: Here Mahādeva received the down-pouring, from heaven sent Gaṅgā (Ākāṣa-Gaṅgā, Vyoma-Gaṅgā), and gave her to the world of man, o thou who is full of Brahmaknowledge,

and in III,<sup>846</sup>:

Eṣā Bhāgīrathī puṇyā  
devagandharvasevitā  
vāteritā patākēva  
virājati nabhastale  
Pratāryamāṇā kūṭeṣu  
yathānimmeṣu nityaṇah  
ṣilātaleṣu santrastā

pannagendravadhūr iva  
 Daxiṇām vāi diṇam sarvām  
 plāvayanti ca mātṛvat  
 pūrvaṁ Çambhor jaṭābhraṣṭā  
 samudramahiṣī priyā.

- 3: That holy Bhāgīrathī, who is worshipped by gods and Gandharva's shines far and wide over the heavens like a pennant fanned by the wind, it is perpetually conducted downwards over the lower mountain tops, lying like a serpent king's mistress, trembling on the rocks, she, the dear queen of the sea overflows all the southern district (nourishing it) like a mother after having first streamed from Çambhu's (Çiva's) hair. See further III,<sub>10307</sub>. XIII,<sub>1830</sub>.

2) Daxa's offer or Çiva's wrath. After Kṛta-Yuga's expiration the gods wished to institute an offering and consequently made preparations for the same in accordance with the instructions of the Veda's. Prajāpati-Daxa, a son of Pracetas (XIX,<sub>12314</sub>), undertook the sacrifice and performed it on Himavat, in that place where Gangā bursts forth from the mountains; but the gods themselves decided who should have a part of the sacrifice. Not knowing Rudra intimately, they did not give him anything. So Rudra went angrily to the place of sacrifice and took his bow with him. Instantly the mountains began to shake, the wind left off blowing, the fire would not burn, the stars glimmered in fear, the sun lost its glory and the moon its beauty, and all the air was enveloped in thick darkness. Then the gods were frightened. Çiva shot right through the sacrifice, which in the shape of a hart took flight to heaven

together with Agni. When the sacrifice had vanished the gods lost their senses and all things were obscured. Īiva in his wrath broke Savitar's (the sun's) arms and Pūṣan's teeth, and tore Bhaga's eyes out with his bow. Then the gods and the different parts of the offering took flight, and when Īiva had driven them all away, he laughed. But when a word spoken by the immortals rent his bow-string, the gods immediately sought the bowless deity and tried to appease him. His temper softened, Mahādeva threw his anger into the sea, gave Bhaga his eyes, Savitar his arms and Pūṣan his teeth again, and order was once more restored. From that time Īiva was allowed the melted butter as his part of the sacrifice.

Thus this tale is related in its simplest form in X,<sup>786</sup>.

In close conformity with this is the story in VII,<sup>9545</sup>. A more elaborate and, apparently, later description is found in XII,<sup>10272</sup> foll. and XIX,<sup>12212</sup> foll. There are a number of references to the myth in different parts of the Mahābhārata, for Ex. III,<sup>1027</sup>. X,<sup>253</sup>. XIII,<sup>7468</sup> etc., likewise in Rāmāyaṇa.

3) Kāma's Incorporeity. Kāma (from kam, to love), also called Manmatha, he who confuses the mind, Madana the intoxicating, Kandarpa the proud? (conf. Kathā-Sarīt-S., Tawney's transl. vol. I, p. 155) and Anaṅga the Incorporeal, is the god of love, who according to XIX,<sup>270</sup>:

Gandharvāpsarasānāṁ cāiva (read: ca)

Kāmadevaṁ tathā prabhuṁ

is lord over Gandharva's and Apsarase's.

It is related of him that once, while Īiva was rapt

in prayer, he tried to excite his love for Pārvatī, so that he (Çiva) might beget a son who should be able to overthrow the Dāitya Tāraka, who had conquered all the world. But Çiva was offended at the interruption to his devotions, and with a single glance of his eye he turned Kāma to ashes, see Kālidāsa's Kumāra-Sambhava 3. sarga. This incident is referred to in XII between v. 6975 and 6980, where it says:

Kāmam abhivartamānam anaṅgatvena çamaṁ anayat  
o: He overpowered Kāma who attacked him, by rendering him incorporeal. In I, 5988 it says:

Anaṅgena kṛte doṣe  
nēmāṁ garhitum arhasi  
o: If it is Anaṅga's fault  
then you ought not to blame her.

In I, 7920 it is said:

Dr̥ṣṭvāiva tām Arjunasya  
Kandarpah samajāyata  
o: When Arjuna saw her, he fell in love with her.

In III, 2086, it is said of Nala:

Kandarpa iva rūpeṇa  
mūrtimān abhavat svayaṁ.  
o: In personal beauty he was Kandarpa personified;  
and in III, 2191:

Atha devāḥ pathi Nalaṁ  
dadṛçur bhūtale sthitam  
sāxād iva sthitam mūrtyā  
Manmatham rūpasampadā.  
o: Then the gods saw Nala standing on the ground in form and beauty Manmatha to the life.  
4) Bhaga's eyes. Çiva is often named as the

one who killed Bhaga, and the putting out of Bhaga's eyes is particularly referred to; thus he is designated in VII,<sup>9538</sup> Bhagaghna, in II,<sup>402</sup> Bhaganetrahan, in X,<sup>249</sup> Bhaganetrahara, in III,<sup>1624</sup>, <sup>15857</sup> Bhagane-tranipātana, and in XIII,<sup>7475</sup> it is said:

Bhagasya nayane kruddhah  
prabharena vyaçātayat.

o: With one blow he in his wrath destroyed Bhaga's eyes.

5) The Asura Andhaka is also often spoken of as being killed by Çiva (VII,<sup>3876</sup>, <sup>9462</sup>. XII,<sup>10357</sup>. XIII,<sup>908</sup>).

6) The destruction of the three fortresses, Tripura, Çiva's most remarkable exploit, is connected with the war between the gods and the Asuras, in which he and his son Kārtikeya (III,<sup>14569</sup>) took an active part.

Asurānām purāṇy-āsaṁs  
trīṇi vīryavatām divi:  
āyaśaṁ rājataṁ cāiva  
sāuvarṇam api cāparam,  
Nāçakat tāni Maghavā  
bhattum sarvāyudhair api,  
atha sarve Mahārudraṁ  
jagmuh çaraṇam arditāḥ. VII,<sup>9555</sup>. XIII,<sup>7482</sup>.

For the mighty Asura's had three fastnesses in heaven, one of iron, one of silver, and one of gold. Vidyunmālin ruled in the first, Tārakāxa in the second, Kamalāxa in the third. Even Maghavat (Indra) with all his weapons could not conquer them. Then the gods had recourse to Rudra and said: protect the three worlds and destroy the city of the Dāitya's. And Çiva agreed to

this, burnt the three fortresses (conf. XIII,7482. VII,9555. VIII,1402, 1569) and exterminated the Dānava's.

He is therefore called Tripurāntakara (II,754, 1641), Tripurārdana (III,14521), Tripuraghna (XII,10357), Tripuraghātin (X,255).

7) The myth of the teacher of the Asuras, the great thinker Uçanas in Mahādeva's stomach, related in XII,10677, is just as fantastic and absurd as a similar story in I,3183 foll. in which it is the disciple who comes out of his teacher Uçana's stomach.

#### K. The Sādhya's and

#### L. The Siddha's

are often named in the Mahābhārata, but without any further particulars. They are doubtless a kind of perfect, siddha, blessed spirits.

According to VI,254 the Siddha's dwell mostly in the glorious, sacred Uttara-Kuru-land which is described as follows:

Daxiṇena tu Nīlasya  
Meroh pārçve tathōttare  
Uttarāḥ Kuravo rājan  
punyāḥ Siddhanisevitāḥ,  
Tatra vṛxā madhuphalā  
nityapuṣpaphalopamāḥ  
puṣpāṇi ca sugandhīni  
rasavanti phalāni ca,  
Sarvakāmaphalās tatra  
kecid vṛxā janādhipa  
apare xīriṇo nāma  
vṛxās tatra narādhipa,



Ye raxanti sadā xīraṁ  
 śaḍrasaṁ cāmṛtopamaṁ  
 vastrāṇi ca prasūyante  
 phaleṣv-ābharaṇāṇi ca,  
 Sarvā maṇimayī bhūmih  
 sūxmakāñcanabālukā,  
 maṇiratnañibhaṁ ramaṇaṁ  
 vajravāidūryasannibhaṁ  
 Bhūbhāgaṁ dṛçyate tatra  
 padmarāgasamaṇiprabhaṁ,  
 sarvartusukhasaṁsparçā  
 niṣpañkā ca janādhipa,  
 Puṣkarīṇyaḥ çubhās tatra  
 sukhaparçā manoharāḥ,  
 Devalokacyutāḥ sarve  
 jāyante tatra mānavāḥ  
 Çuklābhijanasampannāḥ  
 sarve supriyadarçanāḥ,  
 mithunāṇi ca jāyante  
 striyaç câpsarasopamāḥ,  
 Teṣāṁ te xīrināṁ xīraṁ  
 pivanty-amṛtasannibhaṁ,  
 mithunaṁ jāyante kāle  
 saman tatra pravardhate  
 Tulyarūpaṇopetaṁ  
 samaveçaṁ tathāiva ca  
 evaṁ evānurūpaṁ ca  
 cakravākasamaṁ prabho,  
 Nirāmayāç ca te lokā  
 nityaṁ muditamānasāḥ  
 daçavarṣasahasrāṇi  
 daçavarsaçaṭāṇi ca

Jivanti te mahārāja  
 na cānyonyam jahaty-uta.  
 bhārūṇḍā nāma çakunās  
 tīxnatuṇḍā bhayānakāh  
 Tān niharantiha mṛtān  
 darīṣu praxipanti ca,  
 Uttarāh Kuravo rājan  
 vyākhyātās te samāsatah.

- o: 'On the south of the Nila mountain and the northern side of Meru are the sacred Northern Kurus, O king, which are the residence of the Siddhas. The trees there bear sweet fruits, and are always covered with fruits and flowers. All the flowers (there) are fragrant, and the fruits of excellent taste. Some of the trees, again, O king, yield fruits according to (the) will (of the plucker). There are again some other trees, O king, that are called milk-yielding. These always yield milk and the six different kinds of food of the taste of Amrita itself. Those trees also yield cloths and in their fruits are ornaments (for the use of man). The entire land abounds with fine golden sands. A portion of the region there, extremely delightful, is seen to be possessed of the radiance of the ruby or diamond, or of the lapis lazuli or other jewels and gems. All the seasons there are agreeable and nowhere does the land become miry, O king. The tanks are charming, delicious, and full of crystal water. The men born there have dropped from the world of the celestials. All are of pure birth and all are extremely handsome in appearance. There twins (of opposite sexes) are born and the women

resemble Apsarās in beauty. They drink the milk, sweet as Amrita, of those milk-yielding trees (already mentioned). And the twins born there (of opposite sexes) grow up equal. Both possessed of equal beauty, both endued with similar virtues, and both equally dressed, both grow up in love like, O monarch, a couple of chakravākas. The people of that country are free from illness and are always cheerful. Ten thousand and ten hundred years they live, O king, and never abandon one another. A class of birds called Bhārundā, furnished with sharp beaks and possessed of great strength, take them up when dead and throw them into mountain caves. I have now described to thee, O king, the Northern Kurus briefly. (Roy.)

#### M. The Vālakhilya's

are very small Rṣi's who in XIII,<sup>4124</sup> are said to have their origin from Kuṣa-grass. See further concerning them XIII,<sup>6488</sup>.

#### N. The Vasu's.

The word vasu comes from vas, to light, to shine, and means therefore lighting shining. In XII,<sup>10215</sup> the Vasu's are called amitāujasas.

There are 8 Vasu's and they are sons of Prajāpati Manu (XII,<sup>7587</sup>), but according to XII,<sup>7540</sup> they are sons of Dharma (Yama). They are named in I,<sup>2582</sup> as follows.

Dharo Dhruvaç ca Somaç ca  
Ahaç câiva Anilo 'nalah  
Pratyūsaç ca Prabhāsaç ca  
Vasavo 'ṣṭāv iti smṛtāh,

and after this verse all the descendents of the Vasu's are enumerated. In XIII,7094 the same verse is found with Sāvitra instead of Aha, and in Harivaṃṣa 152 Āpas instead of Aha.

The Vasu's became, after being cursed by Vaçiṣṭha (I,3844), on earth the children of Gangā and King Qāntanu (I,3887), but were saved back to heaven by Gangā.

### 1. Agni.

Agni was the lord of the Vasu's (XII,1499. VII,159).

His most frequently occurring names are Pāvaka, Jātavedas, Hutāṇa, and Vāiṣvanara. A number of his other names are mentioned in II,1145, and in III,14190 the names of many different kinds of fire are to be found, but in III,10662 it is said that there are (only) five (sorts) of fire, and in XIII,1005 ten sorts.

Some of these names refer to Agni as being the god of sacrifices, as f.i. Hutāṇa, Havyavāhna, Vahni, Pāvaka, the greater part express the different attributes to be found in fire, as Jvalana, Vibhāvasu, Citrabhānu, Bhūrītejas, Çikhiṇ, Piṅgeṇa, Hiranyakṛt, Plavaṅga, Anala.

His person is merely described by symbolic expressions as Kavi suvarṇavarṇa (XIII,7220).

He is said to be a son of Brahmā:

Brahmaṇo hi prasūto 'gnir. XIII,4168.

His wife is Svāhā (Çivā), a daughter of Daxa (V,3650, 14300. III,14514).

His son Skanda (III,14315. XII,12320) is also called Kumāra and Kārtikeya, and the reason he has been given these names, is related in XIII,4097. The myth

concerning his origin etc. is to be found in III,14299; cfr. IX,2450. XIII,4066, 4190.

Skanda's wife was Devasenā (III,14450).

Skanda has 6 faces, he is ṣaṇmukha, (VII,3454), ṣaḍānana (Rāmāyaṇa I,37, 128), and 12 ears, eyes, hands (XII,4500) and feet, but only 1 neck and 1 stomach. He is dressed in everlasting red clothes (III,14433) and rides on a peacock (XIII,871).

His banner which was given him by Agni, flames high on his chariot, red as the fire at the destruction of the world.

His spear never misses its mark (XIII,4214), and as often as it is thrown, it returns to him again after having killed enemies by thousands (III,14613). As an instance of his immense strength is related in XII,12320 that he once when a boy in contempt for the three worlds thrust his spear into the ground, saying: if there is any stronger than I, then let him pull this spear out or at all events shake it. When the three worlds heard this challenge they trembled and said: who can loosen this lance? Then Viṣṇu took lightly hold of the lance with his left hand and moved it, and immediately all the earth shook with its mountains, forests and seas, and when the Dāitya Prahlāda, Hiraṇyakaśipu's son, tried to pull the spear up, he could not accomplish the feat, but fainted away. With his arrows Skanda split the rock Krāuñca in Himavat (III,1433). He is the commander in chief of the army, senāpati (IX,2498. XIII,4180, 4213. III,14424, 14541). He is named Pāvaki (III,1576, 14878) after his father, Pāvaka, the purifying Agni; and as Īiva's adopted son he is also called Rudrasūna (III,14428). In III,14630 31 of his names are enumerated

very few of which characterise him as a war-god. Concerning his deeds we must mention that, in the warring of the gods against the Asura's, he killed Mahiṣa (III,14610) and Tāraka (XIII,4131), by which he re-established Surendra, the Indra of the Sura's, in the supremacy (XIII,4215).

Agni is most often accompanied by Vāyu, the wind, (I,7632. III,3896), who is called his friend (V,3812).

Āgneya astra is mentioned in VII,3406.

As the personification of fire Agni has a double character because he partly represents the sacrificial fire, partly the cosmical fire.

1. The first is clearly shown from passages where he is called Hutāṇa (II,1130), Hutabhuj (I,924), Devānām mukha (I,927. II,1145), Devatānām pitṛnāṇ ca mukha (I,920).

Tvam Agne sarvadevānām  
mukham, tvam asi havyavāṭ. V,483.

Vedoktena vidhānena  
mayi yad dhūyate havih  
devatāḥ pitaraḥ cāiva  
tena tṛptā bhavanti vāi,  
Devatāḥ pitaraḥ cāiva  
bhuñjante mayi yad dhutam,  
devatānām pitṛnāṇ ca  
mukham etad aham smṛtam. I,917, 920.

o: Thou, o Agni, art the mouth of all the gods, thou art the one who brings the offering (to the gods); the butter that is offered in me according to the rules prescribed in the Veda's, with that are the gods and the ancestors satisfied, the gods

and the Pitṛ's enjoy that which is offered through me, therefore I am called the mouth of the gods and the pitṛ's.

Agni upholds the sacrificial ceremonies (I,<sup>929</sup>). He purifies from all sin, therefore he is called Pāvaka (II,<sup>1146</sup>). And he is the sacrifice itself (II,<sup>1145</sup>. V,<sup>486</sup>).

2. The second clearly appears from many passages, as f. i. V,<sup>485</sup> where it is said of Agni:

Tvām āhur ekam Kavayas,  
tvām āhur trividhaṁ punah,  
tvayā tyaktaṁ jagac cēdaṁ  
sadyo nacyed Dhutāṇana (cfr. I,<sup>8355</sup>).

o: The poets say, thou art one, and again they say, thou art threefold, deserted by thee this world would at once be ruined, o Hutāṇana;

then this trinity is explained in I,<sup>929</sup> where it says:

Lokānām iha sarveṣāṁ  
tvam kartā cānta eva ca  
tvam dhārayasi lokāṁs trīn  
kriyānāṁ ca pravartakah.

o: Thou art the creator of all worlds, and also the end of them, thou upholdest the three worlds, and promotest the work of offering.

Agni is the lightning in the clouds (I,<sup>8357</sup>. V,<sup>488</sup>). He hides himself in the interior of the Çamī-wood (IX,<sup>2745</sup>), and although he fears water as his natural opposite (V,<sup>490</sup>), yet he is said to have originated in the water (XII,<sup>6778</sup>) and to be the foster of water, apām garbha, yes even that he is in the water (III,<sup>14208</sup>) whilst he on the other hand is said to be

the real cause of the existence of water (II,1150. III,14212. XII,8516), and there is laid stress upon the fact that the waters are deposited in him (V,489). The rivers are called the mothers of fire-places (III,14233). Mudikī, the dear wife of the fire Saha, lived in the water (III,14208). Saha enters the water (III,14214).

Agni is hidden in the interior of all beings (I,889, 8653. V,483) and in consequence he knows everything:

Na te 'ty-aviditaṁ kiñcit  
triṣu lokeṣu Pāvaka. V,589.

and is called Jātavedas (II,1146).

### The Deeds of Agni.

#### a. Agni helps king Nīla.

Agni had fallen in love with king Nīla's beautiful daughter who generally took care of her father's sacred fire. And Agni, desiring her for his wife, went one day in the shape of a brāhmaṇa to king Nīla and wooed the girl. After some opposition king Nīla consented and gave her to him. Then Agni favoured him and helped the king in his strife with Sahadeva. The latter's chariots, horses, elephants and himself suddenly burst into flames, and Sahadeva did not know what to do. And the same thing happened to all those princes who tried to subdue king Nīla, they were powerless against him and were all devoured by Hutācā (II,1130 foll.).

#### b. Agni is cursed by Bhṛgu.

Bhṛgu's wife Pulomā became pregnant. One day while Bhṛgu was absent the Rāxasa Puloma came to



Bhṛgu's dwelling. Pulomā received him hospitably. The Rāxasa was seized with desire for Pulomā and determined to abduct her. Pulomā had formerly been betrothed to Puloma, but had since been lawfully given by her father to Bhṛgu. Now Puloma carried her off. But when Bhṛgu heard that Agni had disclosed her to the Rāxasa who by the way did not know that she was Bhṛgu's wife, then he cursed Agni (I.375). The result was that Agni withdrew from all sacrifices and would not take part in them (IX.2745) and disappeared. Then the gods became alarmed, sought zealously for him and found him at last in the Çamī-tree. Then Agni returned, the sacrifices were resumed, and all mankind, Rsi's and gods rejoiced.

## 2. Vāyu.

Vāyu from vā, to blow, is also called Vāta (I.5908). III.11914), Marut, Anila from an, to breathe, and Pāvana from pū, to cleanse (XII.5850), of which names the three first are doubtless originally expressions for the violent and destructive qualities of the wind, the two last for the gentle and beneficial. The names, however, seem later to have been used indiscriminately. Conf. under Çiva and Viṣṇu.

Āgacchan puruṣo Vāyur  
 mayā viṣṭambhito balāt  
 bhañjan drumān parvatām̐ ca  
 yac cānyad api kiñcana ---  
 na hi Vāyor balenāsti  
 bhūtaṁ tulyabalaṁ kvacit,  
 Indro Yamo Vāiçravaṇo  
 Varuṇaḥ ca jaleçvarah

nāite 'pi tulyā Marutah

kim punas tvaṃ vanapate. XII,528.

- o: When the doughty Vāyu came I stopped him with might, although he easily breaks trees and splits mountains and anything else of the kind, for there is not anywhere any other being that can be compared with Vāyu in strength, Indra Yama Vāiçravaṇa and Varuṇa, the Lord of the waters, even these are not equal to Marut (in power) much less thou o tree.

Tato 'nalasukho Vāyus

pravavāu devaveçmasu

Iṣṭagandhah sukhaparçah

sarvendriyasukhāvahah. XII,8118.

- o: Then Anala's friend Vāyu, full of a delightful fragrance and pleasant to the touch, blew through the dwellings of the gods, filling all senses with pleasure.

Vāyu is often spoken of as a friend of Agni. Conf. above.

### 3. Soma.

Soma is one of the most frequently occurring names in the MBh. for the Moon (I,2582. III,1745. IX,3011. XIII,7241). More rarely it is named Candramas (XII,4499), Candra. the luminous (IX,321), Çaçin having a hare (as emblem) III,2187, Indu (I,2577) and Jayantu (XIII,7092).

The Moon was made the ruler over the naxatra's XII,4499.

Soma's father was Atrī (XIII,7243), cfr. under Varuṇa.

He was married to 27 daughters of Daxa prajāpati

(I,<sup>2580</sup>. XII,<sup>7511</sup>). The story of this marriage is found in a more elaborate form in IX,<sup>2013</sup> follow. I give the shorter tale in Vol. III p. 833, which runs as follows:

Daxasya yā vāi duhitarah ṣaṣṭir āsan, tābhyaḥ Kaçya-pāya trayodaça prādāt daça Dharmāya daça Manave saptaviṃṣatim Indave, tāsu tulyāsu Naxatrākhyāṁ gatāsu Somo Rohiṇyāṁ abhyadhikāṁ pritimān abhūt tatas tāḥ ṣiṣṭāḥ patnya īrṣāvatyah pituh samīpaṁ gatvā imam arthaṁ ṣaçaṁsuh: Bhagavann asmāsu tulyaprabhavāsu Somo Rohiṇīm pratyadhikāṁ bhajatīti. So 'bravid: yaxmānam āviçyata iti Daxaṣāpāt Somaṁ rājānam yaxmā viveça, sa yaxmaṇāviṣṭo Daxam agamat. Daxaṣ cānam abravīt: na samāṁ vartayasīti; tatraṣṣayah Somam abruvan: xiyase yaxmanā paçcimasyāṁ diçi samudre Hiranyasarasatīrthaṁ, tatra gatvā ātmānam abhiṣecavēti; athāgacchat. Somas tatra Hiranyasarasatīrthaṁ gatvā cātmanah secanam akarot snātvā cātmānam pāpmano, mocayām āsa, tatra cāvabhāsitas tīrthe yadā Somas tadā prabhṛti ca tīrthaṁ tat Prabhāsam iti nāmnā khyātam babhūva, tacchāpād adyāpi Somah amāvāsyāntarāsthah pāurnamāsīmātre 'dhiṣṭhitah meghalekhāpraticehannam vapur darçayati meghasadṛçaṁ varṇam agamat tad asya çaçalaxma vimalam abhavat.

o: Daxa's daughters were 60 in number, of these he gave 13 to Kaçyapa, 10 to Dharma (Yama), 10 to Manu, 27 to Indu, amongst these who were all equally gifted, and were known as naxatra's, Soma felt a passionate love for Rohiṇī alone, therefore the others were envious and went to their father and said: o most reverend one, although we are all equal in descent still Soma seeks Rohiṇī's society most, Daxa said: sickness shall seize him, thereupon king Soma

was seized with illness on account of Daxa's curse; overcome by disease he went to Daxa, and Daxa said to him: thou dost not treat thy wives equally well, thou art not just (towards thy wives). The sages said to Soma: thou art wasted by sickness, in the western district, by the sea, there is a bathing place called Hiranya-saras, go there and bathe. Thereupon Soma journeyed there and having arrived at Hiranyā-tīrtha he bathed there and having bathed he freed himself from sin, and as Soma beamed there in the bath darting rays of light, then the bathing place became afterwards renowned under the name of Prabhāsa. On account of the curse Soma is up to the present day hidden in the night until the first quarter, but when the moon is at its full, it shows a body that is covered by a line of clouds, it has then a mark which clearly resembles a hare.

A myth related to the story of Soma tells how Rāhu tried to swallow both sun and moon. See above.

In XIII.<sup>6751</sup> Rohiṇī is called Çaṇin's pious wife.

Soma's daughter Bhadrā was married to Utathya, but was stolen by Varuṇa (XIII.<sup>7241</sup>), see above.

His daughter Jyotsnākālī was married to Puṣkara, Varuṇa's handsome and intellectual son (V.<sup>3533</sup>).

In V.<sup>3804</sup> it is said about the moon:

Atra pītvā samastān vāi  
Varuṇasya rasāms tu ṣaṭ  
jāyate taruṇaḥ Somah  
ṣukraśyādāu tamisrahā.

- ॐ: Here having drunk all Varuṇas sex juices the infant Soma is born who kills darkness in the beginning of the light (half-moon).

O. Vidyādhara's.

The Vidyādhara's are aerial spirits who live on the top of the mountain Krāuñca in Himavat (IX, 2706).

When warriors fight with one another the Vidyādhara's are said to send a rain of flowers down on them (VII, 5746).

Their chief is Cakradharman (II, 403).

### III. YAXA'S.

The word yaxa is probably only a differentiated form of raxas as Yaxa's and Rāxasa's are very often mentioned together, see I, 66, 7658, 2542. VI, 1227, 1430 follow, and as the Yaxa's are said to have seceded from the Rāxasa's with Kuvera at their head, see below. Kuvera was a brother of Rāvaṇa, the prince of the Rāxasa's.

The Yaxa's are generally identified with the Guhyaka's (V, 7480. VI, 549. XII, 10216), yet these are sometimes mentioned apart from the Yaxa's (I, 95).

The origin of the Yaxa's is stated in very different ways.

The function of the Yaxa's is to protect their prince Kuvera, Dhaneçvara, the God of riches:

Yaxottamā Yaxapatiṁ Dhaneṇaṁ

raxanti vāi prāsagadāsihastāḥ Hariv. 13132.

2: The foremost Yaxa's protect the Yaxa-prince, the Lord of riches, armed with javelins, clubs and swords,

and to guard his fortress and his garden, see below. and compare the beginning of Kālidāsa's Meghadūta.

Kuvera, the Good of Riches.

His Lineage.

Kuvera belongs originally to the Asura's, his father was the Brahman sage and muni Viṣṇavas, and his mother's name was Ilavilā. His three half-brothers were Rāvaṇa, the Raxas'es mighty king of Ceylon, Kumbhakarṇa and Vibhīṣana, and his half-sister Çūrpanakhā, who are all sons and daughters of Kāikāsī (Rām. VII, 9, 28—35, in another form in M. III, 15889). Kāikāsī was a daughter of the Rāxasa Sumālī, who lived in Pātāla when Kuvera reigned in Laṅkā. Kuvera's wife was named Riddhi (M. XIII, 6750) and his son Nalakūvara (M. II, 400. III, 15886. IX, 2757).

His Names.

Kuvera is doubtless — kuvīra and means therefore the same as kinnara and kimpuruṣa and kupuruṣa = what a (wretched or hideous) man! He is described as being with three legs and only eight teeth (Wilson's Dict.). Others define the word as a possessive compound with the definition: he who has a hideous body, as, vera, it is opined, means body. Upon this we have however only later lexicographers' authority, but no examples from literature.

In the Mahābhārata and Rāmāyaṇa the following names are used for Kuvera: as a son of Viṣṇavas he is named Vāiṣṇavaṇa (M. III, 11653. II, 384. R. IV, 43. 23). After his mother, Ilavilā he is called Āilavila (M. V, 3840), after his principal city Alakādhīpa, Alaka's ruler (M. IX, 583), after his subjects: Kinnareṣvara, Guhyādhīpa (M. III, 11834), Yaxarāj (R. IV, 43. 23), Yaxādhīpa (Nala 13, 23), Yaxarājan (M. IX, 2755), Rāxaseṣvara (M. III, 15890), Rāxasādhīpati (M. II, 410. III, 11705), Yaxaraxodhipati (M. X, 10666) 9: Lord over Kinnaras, Guhyakas, Yaxas, Raxas. As a mighty king he is titled Rājarāja (M. III, 11358. Meghadūta 7), king of kings. As the god of riches he is called Dhanada (M. V, 3831. XII, 10666. R. VI, 11, 25), Dhanapati (M. XIII, 1067. III, 11768. Meghadūta 7), Dhanādhīpa, Dhanādhīpati (M. III, 11766, 11768), Dhanādhyaxa (R. VII, 11, 7), Dhaneṣvara, dhanānām iṣvara (M. III, 1672, 11409. XII, 2819, 7552. XIII, 1059. R. VII, 11, 49), Nidhipa (M. XII, 7552), Vittapāla (R. VII, 11, 26), Viteṣa (R. VII, 11, 27), and it is said that his body is made of gold (M. III, 1678).

#### Kuvera is driven from Ceylon.

That king of kings, borne on men's shoulders (M. III, 15909) and honoured by all gods (R. III, 48, 21) reigned first in Laṅkā, but his brother Rāvaṇa with the ten heads (daṣānana R. VII, 11, 27, daṣagrīva M. III, 15920), excited by his grandfather Sumālī picked a quarrel with him saying: "This lovely city belonged once to the Rāxasa's with Sumālī at their head, give it therefore back again". And he conquered him in the battle, drove him out of Laṅkā and even deprived him of the chariot

Pushpaka which Brahmā had given him (M. III,<sup>15886</sup> foll.). Followed by Gandharva's, Yaxa's, (some)<sup>1</sup> Rāxasa's and Kimpuruṣa's and accompanied by his pious (dharmātman III,<sup>15923</sup>, dharmiṣṭha 11411) brother Vibhīṣaṇa, who as a reward for his fidelity was made Commander-in-Chief of the Rāxasa and Yaxa armies (M. III,<sup>15925</sup>, conf. III, p. 838?), Kuvera journeyed by the advice of his father, with wife, son and servant, with his chariots and his goods and chattels to Himālaya, to the balmy and beautiful mountain Gandhamādana and to Kailāsa with the river Mandākinī, the most lovely of all streams, covered with fragrant golden lotuses, which shine like the sun. While Kuvera took up his abode in Himavat, Rāvaṇa marched with his cannibal Rāxasa's into the empty city of Laṅkā (R. VII,<sup>11</sup>, 47), from where he afterwards attacked both Deva's and Dāitya's seized their treasures, and because he caused loud wailing and lamentation (rāvayām āsa) he was called Rāvaṇa M. III,<sup>15924</sup>).

### Himālaya.

The Himavat mountains hold the highest place amongst all the mountains in the world (M. XIII,<sup>1407</sup>), they are praised as being divine, holy and loved by the gods (M. III,<sup>1495</sup>) and they are protected by Rāxasa's and Piṣāca's (M. VIII,<sup>2104</sup>). From them the ascent is made, through the air, up to Svarga-heaven with the Nandana forest, the home of the inhabitants of heaven, the Deva's. The high Kuvera enjoys a fourth

<sup>1</sup> I have added «some» before Rāxasa's because I assume that the Rāxasa's have formed two parties, viz: one that sided with Rāvaṇa and one that kept to his banished brother. Conf. also III,<sup>14548</sup>.



part of Meru's treasures and he gives a sixteenth part to mankind.

South of Mount Nila and on the north side of Meru (M. VI,<sup>254</sup>) lies the holy northerly Kuru-land where the Siddhas dwell. The trees there are always in flowers and always bear fruit, and the flowers exhale a delicious odour and the fruits are luscious, and anybody can pluck as many flowers as he likes. Some of the trees give milk continuously, with six sorts of juice equal to Amrita, and others give raiment, and the fruit serves as ornaments. The lotus ponds are lovely, and the soil is strewn with fine gold sand and gleams with diamonds and other precious stones, the joys of all seasons rule here, and all those people who have fallen down from (3: have lived their time out in) the world of the gods, are re-born here. Cfr. *supra* p. 167.

#### Kuvera's land.

Among Himālaya's many great and small mountains Kuvera chose Kāilāsa (also called Hemakūṭa) (M. III,<sup>12340</sup>. VI,<sup>229, 236, 246</sup>. V,<sup>3840</sup>) and Gandhamādana (III,<sup>11600</sup>) as his favourite dwelling place. Gandhamādana darkens like a cloud in the sky. It is inhabited by hosts of Yaxa's, Gandharva's, Sura's and Brahma sages (M. III,<sup>11089</sup>), and with clouds on its sides it seems to dance with outspread wings (M. III,<sup>11091</sup>). The mountain has forests with different kinds of flowers, rivers and lakes with fresh golden lotuses, and with a swarm of swans, Kāraṇḍavas and Cakravākas in the lotus-filled river it resembles a wreath on the mountain's temples. Herds of wild elephants, timid antelopes

with grass in their mouths, buffalos, bears and leopards graze there (M. III,<sub>11337</sub>. V,<sub>2470</sub>). On Gandhamādana's summits Kuvera, the lord of Guhyakas' wanders at peace together with the Rāxasa's and surrounded by hosts of Apsaras'es (M. VI,<sub>229</sub>). The Guhya's protect the mountain (M. VIII,<sub>2108</sub>). The whitish-yellow (R. IV,<sub>43</sub>, 20) Kāilāsa is 6 yojana's high (M. III,<sub>40830</sub>), and a gigantic jujube tree is found there. It is likewise covered with lovely woods, rivers, lakes and caves (M. III,<sub>12343</sub>).

Here Kuvera was installed by Brahmā himself (M. V,<sub>3830</sub>) in dominion over all riches (M. IX,<sub>2753</sub> XII,<sub>4436</sub>) and over Rāxasa's, Yaxa's and Gandharva's, and he rejoiced greatly (M. XII,<sub>1528</sub>).

At the entrance to Kāilāsa there is a golden gate (M. XIII,<sub>1412</sub>).

Kuvera's great forest, mahadvana, is called Nandana (M. II, Vāyupurāṇa p. 358). His grove (udyāna, vana) is called Cāitraratha (V,<sub>3831</sub>. R. VI,<sub>111</sub>, 31. M. III,<sub>11287</sub>. I,<sub>2376</sub>, 3282).

His river is the beautiful Mandākinī (M. XIII,<sub>1412</sub>, 1443, 4860. R. III,<sub>5</sub>, 36. VII,<sub>11</sub>, 41), the first of rivers whose waters are decked with golden lotuses, that resemble the sun.

His lotus-lake, Nalinī or Jāmbūnada-saras, the golden lake (M. V,<sub>3843</sub>) is called Alakā (M. II,<sub>390</sub>). It is full of divine, fragrant, golden Sāugandhikā lotuses and all sorts of aquatic birds, surrounded by lovely woods with thick trees and climbing plants. Its water is clear and cool, and has an ambrosial taste. It is guarded by Rāxasa's named Krodhavaṇṇa's with their king Maṇibhadra at their head (M. III,<sub>11451</sub>, 10826. XIII,<sub>1413</sub>. R. IV,<sub>43</sub>, 22. Nala 12 v. 130).

A bathing place is named after him (Kuvera) and is called tirtha Kāuvera (M. IX.<sup>2752</sup>).

His city, pura, āvāsa, ālaya, sadana, is called Alakā (Megh. v. 7) and himself after it Alakā's prince Alakādhipa (M. IX.<sup>583</sup>). It is embellished with golden houses, crystal palaces and entirely surrounded by a golden wall with doors and gates. Rows of flags and banners flutter in the wind, and dancing jesting women are seen everywhere (M. III.<sup>11697, 11753-54</sup>).

His palace, bhavana, which is built by Viçvakarman, shines like the white-yellow cloud and is edged with gold (R. IV, 43, 21. M. III.<sup>11352</sup>).

His assembly-hall, sabhā, which is built by himself on the strength of his great sacrificial power is 100 yojana's in length and 70 in breadth. It is as bright as the peaks of Kāilāsa, and its white sheen eclipses even the splendour of the moon. Borne by Guhyaka's it seems to float in the air. The heavenly palace is resplendent with lofty halls of gold. It glitters with coloured pearls, and is delightful with its divine fragrance. On a throne, which shines like the sun, sits in this hall the high Vaiçravaṇa in a dress with coloured ornaments, and with shining earrings. The throne and the throne footstool are covered with divine carpets. A cool refreshing breeze, which rushes through a forest of high Mandāra trees, and brings with it a delightful odour from clusters of Sāugandhika lotuses in Lake Alakā and from the Nandana forest, refreshes him, and innumerable hosts of Apsaras'es and Gandharva's worship the giver of riches and serve him with dance and song. There the Guhyaka's, Yaxa's, Rāxasa's, Piçāca's

Vidyādhara's gather, and all mountains and hills, impersonated, with Meru at their head, and Saṅkha and Padma, the greatest of all eminent treasures. Here Laxmī with Īva and Umā come and many others (M. II,<sup>383</sup>).

His chariot, vāhana, vimāna, which was built by Viṣvakarman, is ornamented with painted edges and goes wherever one wishes, it is called Pushpaka (M. III,<sup>14546</sup>). It was given him by Brahmā together with the sway of all riches, divinity and immortality, suratva, amaratva, sovereignty as the world's guardian, loka-pālatva, friendship with Rudra and a son Nalakūvara (M. III,<sup>15886</sup>, 11775. IX,<sup>2756</sup>. R. III,<sup>48</sup>, c). When Rāvana took away his chariot (see above) Kuvera cursed him using these words: „It shall not bear thee, but it shall bear him who shall overthrow thee in the strife, and thou shalt soon die because thou hast scoffed at me, thine elder brother“ (M. III,<sup>15022</sup>).

His favourite weapon, asta priya, is Antardhāna, a strong, sharp, shining weapon which lays the enemy low or forces him to take flight. With it Čaṅkara destroyed of yore Tripura and crushed the mighty Asura's (M. III,<sup>1702</sup>).

His favourite drink is honey, madhu, he has a jar full of it standing on the mountain Gandhamādana in an inaccessible chasm. It is guarded by poisonous serpents. If a mortal partook of it he would gain immortality, a blind man would recover his sight and an old man would be rejuvenated (M. V,<sup>2474</sup>).

Kuvera forms, it appears, an intermediate link between the cannibal Rāxasa's and the Surian

Deva's. He leaves the Troll's in Ceylon and goes to the gods on Himālaya and associates with them. He even becomes Qiva's friend. It is clear that among the Deva's Rudra is the one most closely united to him. As a proof of his admission to the celestial regions we may refer to his being called a Deva in the Rāmāyaṇa VII,<sup>11</sup>, 30, and in Manu V,<sup>96</sup> he is named amongst the Lokapāla's (Guardians of the world).

## APPENDIX TO KÜVERA.

India has long been looked upon as the cradle of fairy tales and legends, and such is indeed the case, for beside numbers of short folk-stories such as *Vetāla-pañcaviṃṣati*, 25 Tales by a Ghost, *Çukasaptati*, 70 Tales by a Parrot, *Simhāsana-dvātriṃṣat*, 32 Tales by the Images on Vikramāditya's Throne, and beside those found spread throughout the *Mahābhārata* and *Rāmāyaṇa* and in fact in all the Indian literature with its commentaries, we have the following important collections of fables, fairy stories and tales: The *Jātaka*-book concerning the Transmigration of souls, from about 477 B. C., published by V. Fausbøll in 7 vols. 1877—97<sup>1</sup>; the *Pañcatantra*-book in 5 chap., by Viṣṇuçarman, from about 530 A. D. published first by Kosegarten 1848 since by Kielhoru and Bühler 1868—81, 2 ed. 1882<sup>2</sup>; *Hito-padeṣa*, the Beneficial Instruction, published by Carey 1804, by Schlegel and Lassen 1829—31, by P. Peterson 1887<sup>3</sup>; *Kathāsaritsāgara*, the Lake of

Of an English transl. by E. Cowell 4 vols. have appeared 1895—1901. <sup>2</sup> Transl. into German by Benfey 1—2 vols. 1859, by Fritze 1884, into French by Lancereau 1871, into Danish in extracts by Harald Rasmussen 1898. <sup>3</sup> Transl. into English by Wilkens 1787 into German by Max Müller 1844, Schönberg 1884, Fritze 1888, into French by Lancereau 1855.

Legend Streams by Somadeva, from about 1063, published by Brockhaus, 1839—66, and by Durgāprasāda 1889<sup>1</sup>; Kshemendra's *Avadāna Kalpalatā*, 1—2 vols. 1888—97, H. Jacobi, *Erzählungen in Māhārāshtrī*, 1886. *Kathā Kosha* a Treasury of Tales, transl. by Tawney, 1895. (Or. Transl. Fund). *Die Āvaśyaka-Erzählungen*. Herausgeg. von E. Leumann 1897. (In *Abhdl. für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*. Bd. 10).

To these must be added from more modern times: Frere, *Old Deccan Days; or Hindu Fairy Legends*, 1868; Stokes, *Indian Fairy Tales*; Lal Behari Day, *Folk-Tales of Bengal*, 1883; Steel and Temple, *Wide awake Stories*, Bombay 1884. Temple, *The Legends of the Panjāb*, 1—2 vols. 1884—85; Knowles, *Folk-Tales of Kashmir*, 1888; Swynnerton, *Indian Night's Entertainment, or Folk-Tales from the Upper Indus*. London 1892; and from the latest date many stories communicated in the periodical: *The Indian Antiquary*.

It can be proved that some of the old Indian tales have simply wandered through literature from east to west, to Persians, Hebrews, Arabians, Syrians, Greeks, Turks and into European Folk-literature of the middle ages, others have probably been transmitted and spread from land to land all over the world by word of mouth. But in all cases the greater part of the Folk-Tales, both on the whole and in many separate characteristics, point back to India as the land of their birth, and it is Theodor Benfey's great merit that he has proved this, in his thorough researches, in the introduction to

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<sup>1</sup> Transl. into English by Tawney, 1—2 vols., 1880—84.

his translation of *Pañcatantra*. And when the old Greek authors, Herodot, Ktesias, Strabo and Ælian speak of gold digging ants, of grifins, of pigmies, of one-legged men, of others with dog's heads and the like, it is evident that these tales are only a reflection of the imaginative mind of India.

Some of the principal elements in the fables are gold, silver and precious stones. Who has not heard of Jason with the golden fleece, of Fafnir, who guards the gold on Gnita Heath, of the Asa's who throw golden dice on the plain of Ida, of Sif's golden hair, of the boar Goldbristle, of Goldmane, the golden ring Draupnir etc.: and who has not read Asbjørnsen's and Moe's fairy tales *Kari Træstak*; *East of the Sun and West of the Moon*. The *Maiden on the Glass Mountain*, *The three Sisters*, who are taken into the mountain and similar goblin stories from all countries, in which precious metals play an important part.

In India we read of serpents (*nāga*, *sarpa*) in ant-hills full of gold (*Pañcatantra* III,<sup>5, 10</sup>), of golden *hamsa*'s (*Pañcat.* III,<sup>6</sup>; *Jātaka* Nr. 136), of the *Nāga* who makes a present of jewels to the king who saved its life (*Jātaka* Nr. 386), of the princess who will only marry one who has seen the golden city (*Kathā-Sarit-Sāgara* V,<sup>24</sup>), of the golden lotuses (*Kathā-S.-S.* V,<sup>25</sup>), of *Çiva*'s garden of golden trees with branches of jewels and flowers with clusters of pearls (*K.-S.-S.* IX,<sup>52</sup>) and so forth.

How does it happen that precious metals and minerals play so important a part in India's tales (and therefore also in those originating from there). The



simple reason is because India has always been richly endowed with the same.

An early proof of this fact we gather from the records of the ancient Greeks. Thus Megasthenes relates that whilst the land on its surface bears all kinds of cultivated fruits, it has underneath numerous veins of all sorts of metals, for it is in possession of much gold and silver, and not a little copper and iron, yes, even tin and other metals which are used in the manufacture of useful articles and ornaments, as well as implements of war. He furthermore says that Taprobane (Ceylon) produces more gold and more large pearls than the continent of India, and people's raiment is interwoven with gold and ornamented with gems. He further relates about gold digging ants amongst the Dards<sup>1</sup> and says that the rivers carry gold dust<sup>2</sup>, and that part of it is given in tribute to the king.

Another proof is the numbers of mines still being worked in India. According to Constable's Hand Atlas of India there are about 59 gold mines, 14 silver mines, 34 diamond mines, beside 105 iron-, 55 copper- and 21 lead mines.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Schiern's treatise on the gold digging ants, 1873. <sup>2</sup> Conf. Gertz's transl. of Lucian p. 158: An Indian ant, of those who dig gold. Mikylos: And to think that I, ass that I was, should have hesitated in my former life to provide myself with only a trifling portion of gold dust, to bring with me into the present! <sup>3</sup> Temple, India p. 303: India is one of the oldest gold-producing countries in the world. — Marshman says in his History of India I p. 10, that when Darius had conquered India, this land yielded  $\frac{1}{8}$  of his income and that the tribute was paid in gold, while the tribute from the rest of the state was only paid in silver. — Friedländer says in his Sittengeschichte III p. 50: Cleve who wandered about in the vaults of Murshadabad amongst heaps of Gold and jewels

The great conquerors whose desire it was to reach India also give evidence of this. We must first mention the traditions concerning Dionysus and Hercules, then the invasions of Cyrus, Darius, Alexander, the Çakas (Scythians), Mahmud of Ghasna, the Mongol Tamerlan, (even Napoleon's thoughts have been busy with India) until at last, of European Mercantile Companies, the English in 1757 gained the mastery and after the mutiny in 1857 proclaimed Queen Victoria „Empress of India“. The country is now governed by a Viceroy.

Considering these things can we wonder that we in India find a God of Riches, a god for those riches that grow in the mountain and not those that grow in the fields?

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— — still his purchase of diamonds came in Madras alone to 25,000 £, and a box with jewellery belonging to his wife was valued at 200,000 £.

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